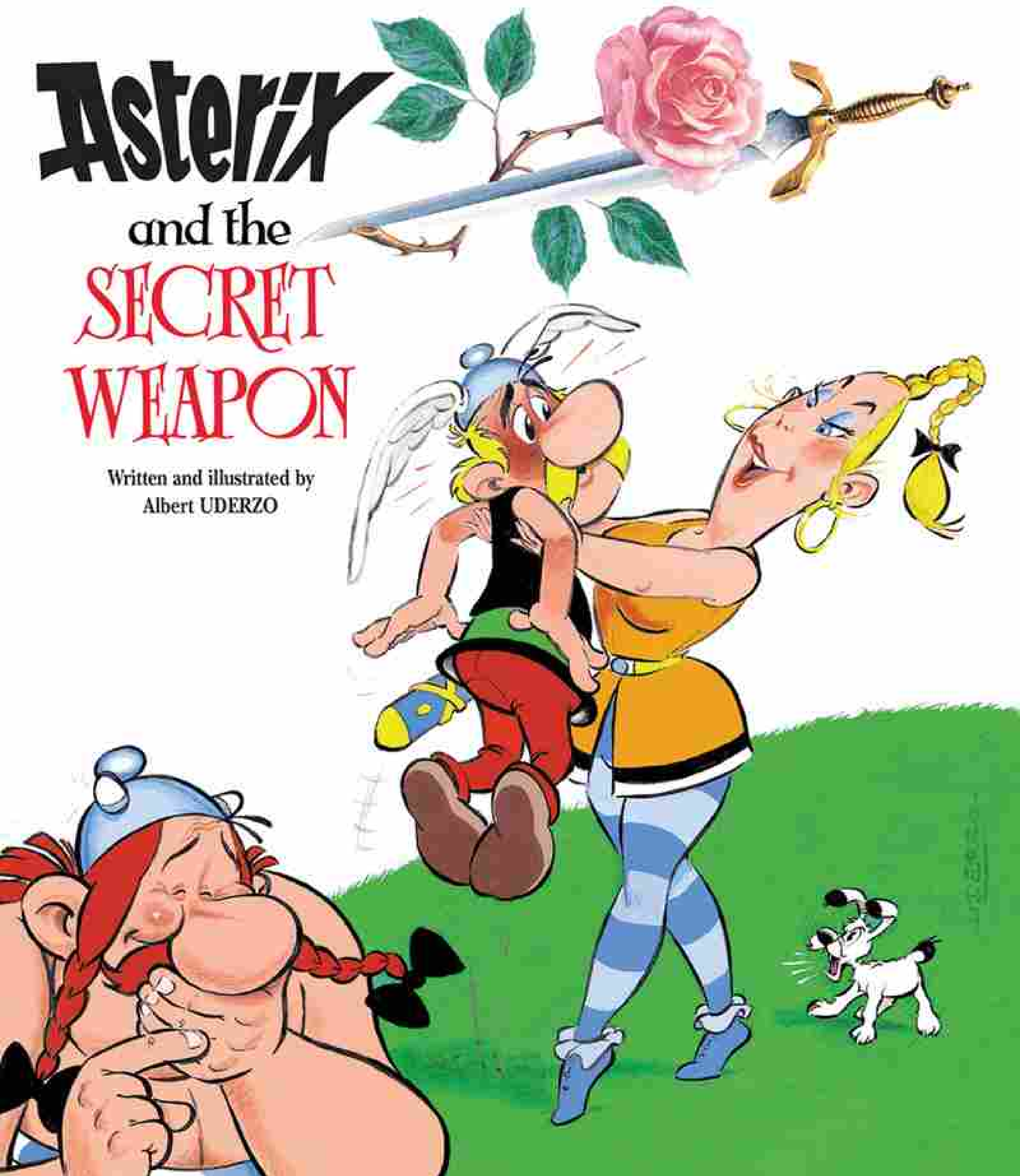


R. GOSCINNY **Asterix** A. UDERZO

Asterix

and the SECRET WEAPON

Written and illustrated by
Albert UDERZO



GOSCINNY AND UDERZO

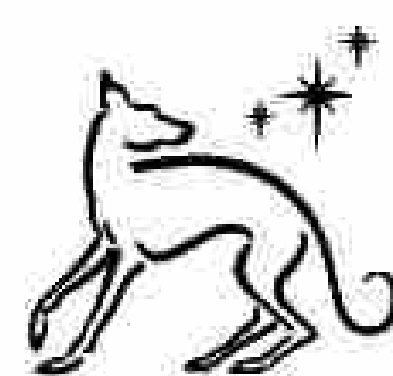
PRESENT

An Asterix Adventure

ASTERIX AND THE SECRET WEAPON

Written and Illustrated by ALBERT UDERZO

Translated by Anthea Bell *and* Derek Hockridge



AUTHOR'S NOTE

*The story of this Asterix adventure was written in 1990. The artwork was completed in May 1991.
Any resemblance to events or actual persons living or dead is purely coincidental.*

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AN ORION CHILDREN'S EBOOK

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Original title: *La Rose et le glaive*

This eBook first published in 2014 by Orion Children's Books.

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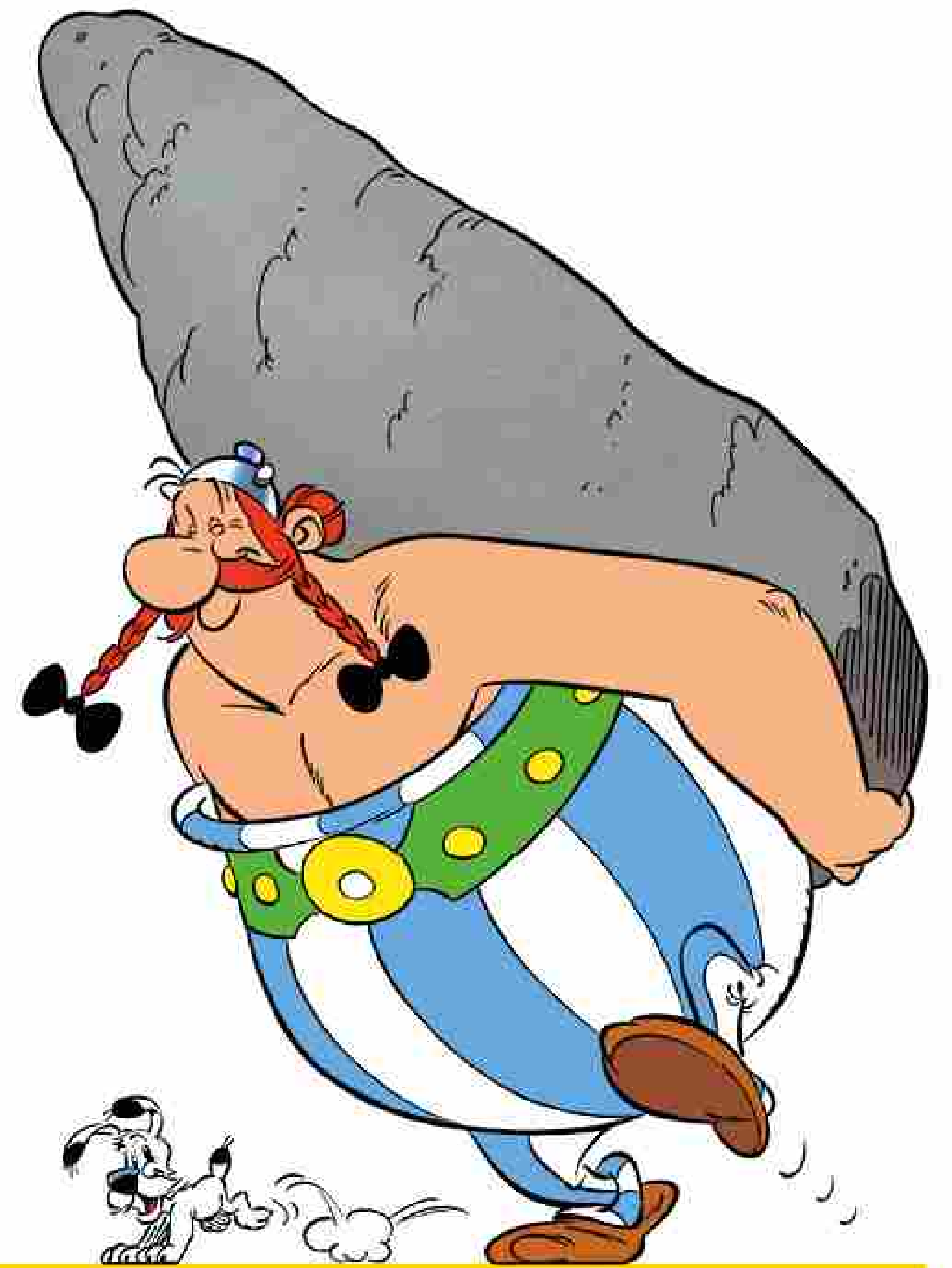
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THE YEAR IS 50 BC. GAUL IS ENTIRELY OCCUPIED BY THE ROMANS. WELL, NOT ENTIRELY ... ONE SMALL VILLAGE OF INDOMITABLE GAULS STILL HOLDS OUT AGAINST THE INVADERS. AND LIFE IS NOT EASY FOR THE ROMAN LEGIONARIES WHO GARRISON THE FORTIFIED CAMPS OF TOTORUM, AQUARIUM, LAUDANUM AND COMPENDIUM ...



ASTERIX, THE HERO OF THESE ADVENTURES. A SHREWD, CUNNING LITTLE WARRIOR, ALL PERILOUS MISSIONS ARE IMMEDIATELY ENTRUSTED TO HIM. ASTERIX GETS HIS SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH FROM THE MAGIC POTION BREWED BY THE DRUID GETAFIX . . .



OBELIX, ASTERIX'S INSEPARABLE FRIEND. A MENHIR DELIVERY MAN BY TRADE, ADDICTED TO WILD BOAR. OBELIX IS ALWAYS READY TO DROP EVERYTHING AND GO OFF ON A NEW ADVENTURE WITH ASTERIX - SO LONG AS THERE'S WILD BOAR TO EAT, AND PLENTY OF FIGHTING. HIS CONSTANT COMPANION IS DOGMATIX, THE ONLY KNOWN CANINE ECOLOGIST, WHO HOWLS WITH DESPAIR WHEN A TREE IS CUT DOWN.



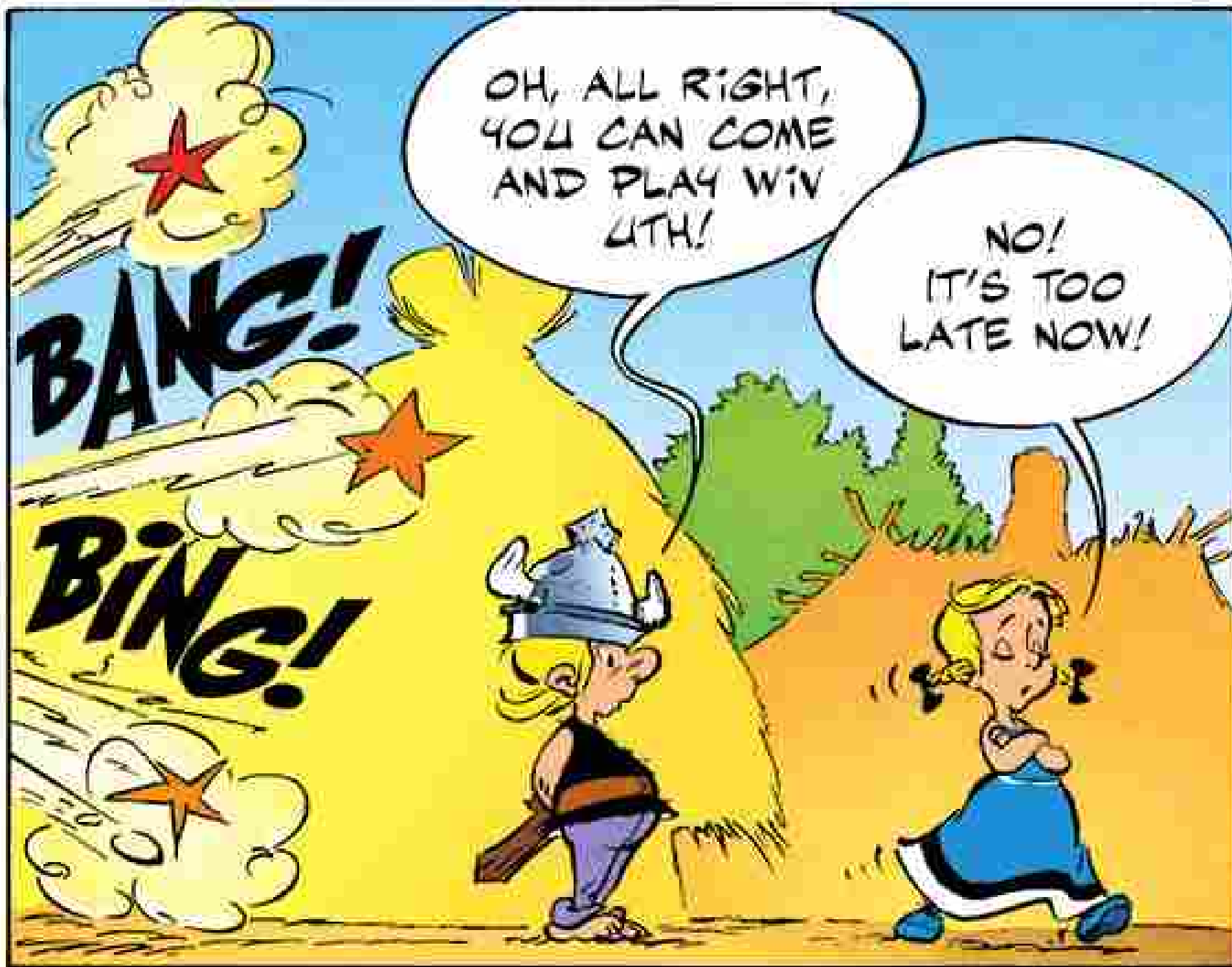
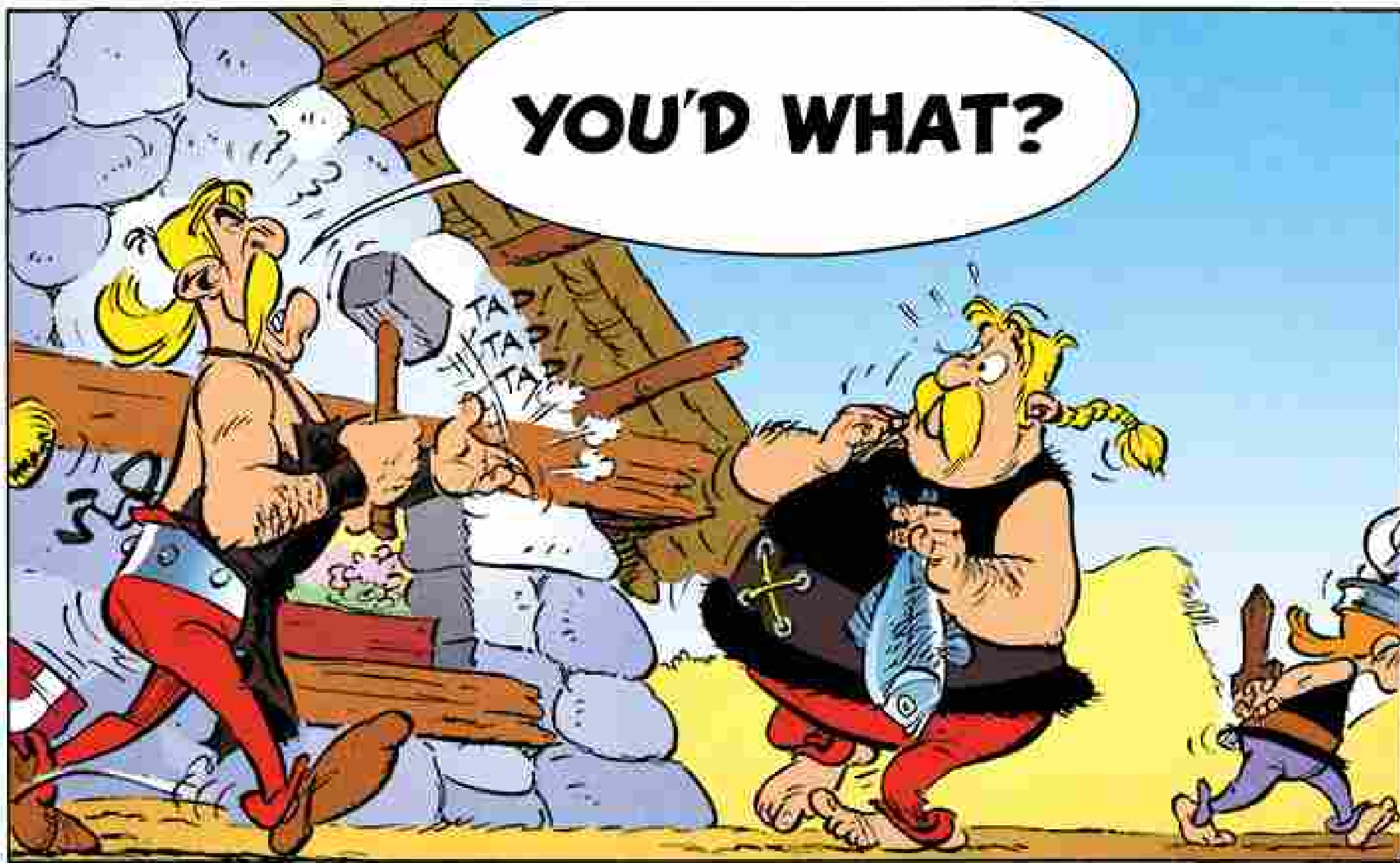
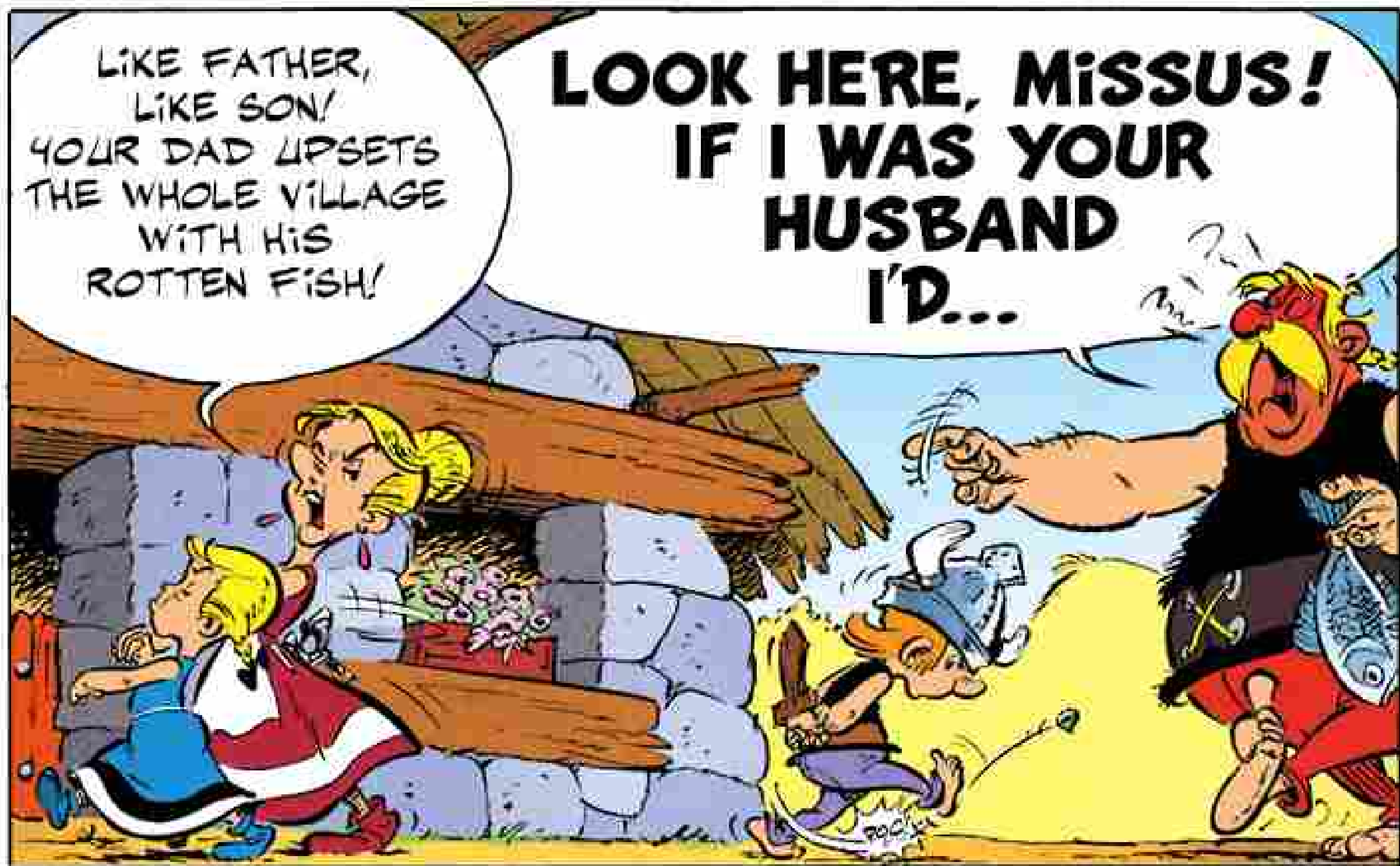
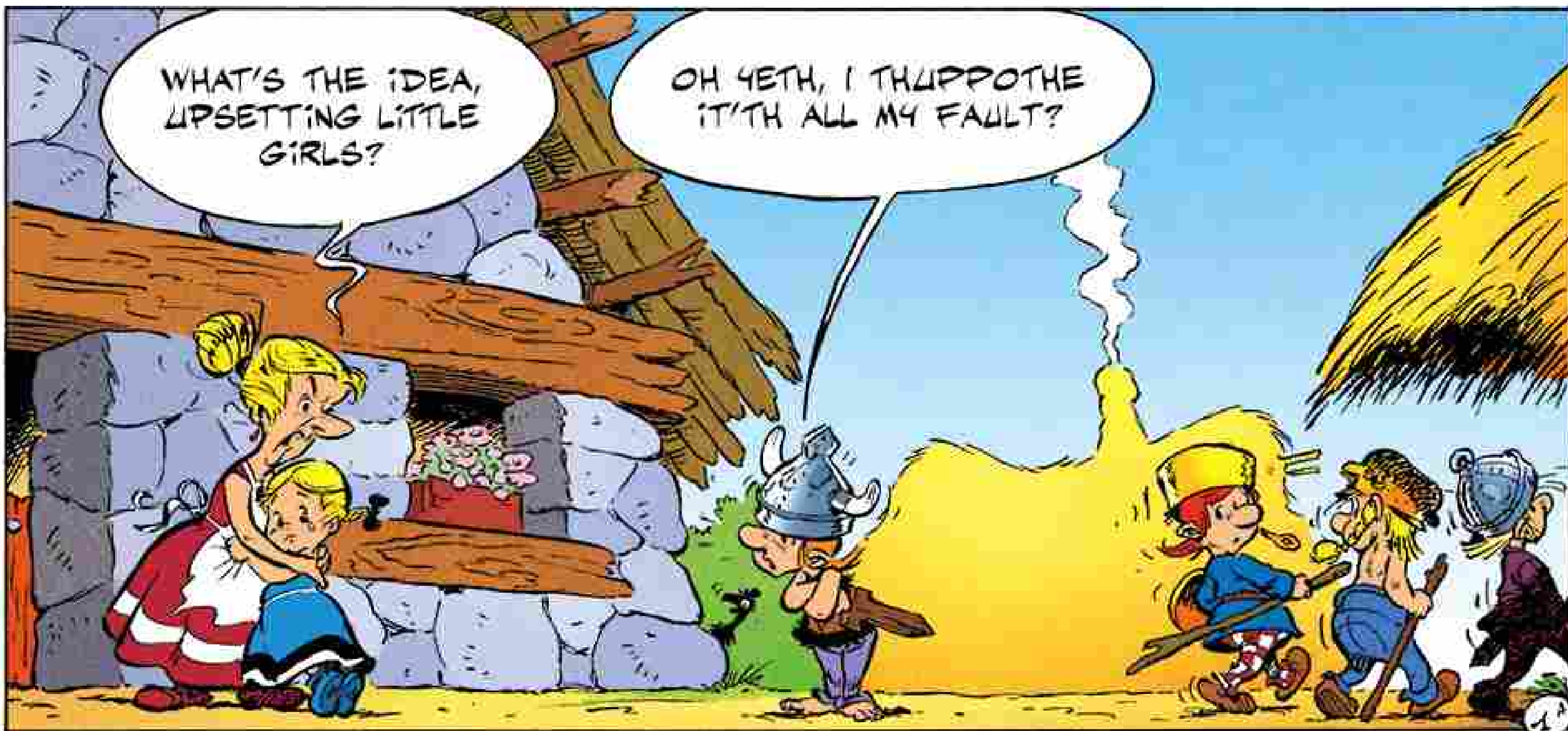
GETAFIX, THE VENERABLE VILLAGE DRUID, GATHERS MISTLETOE AND BREWS MAGIC POTIONS. HIS SPECIALITY IS THE POTION WHICH GIVES THE DRINKER SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH. BUT GETAFIX ALSO HAS OTHER RECIPES UP HIS SLEEVE . . .

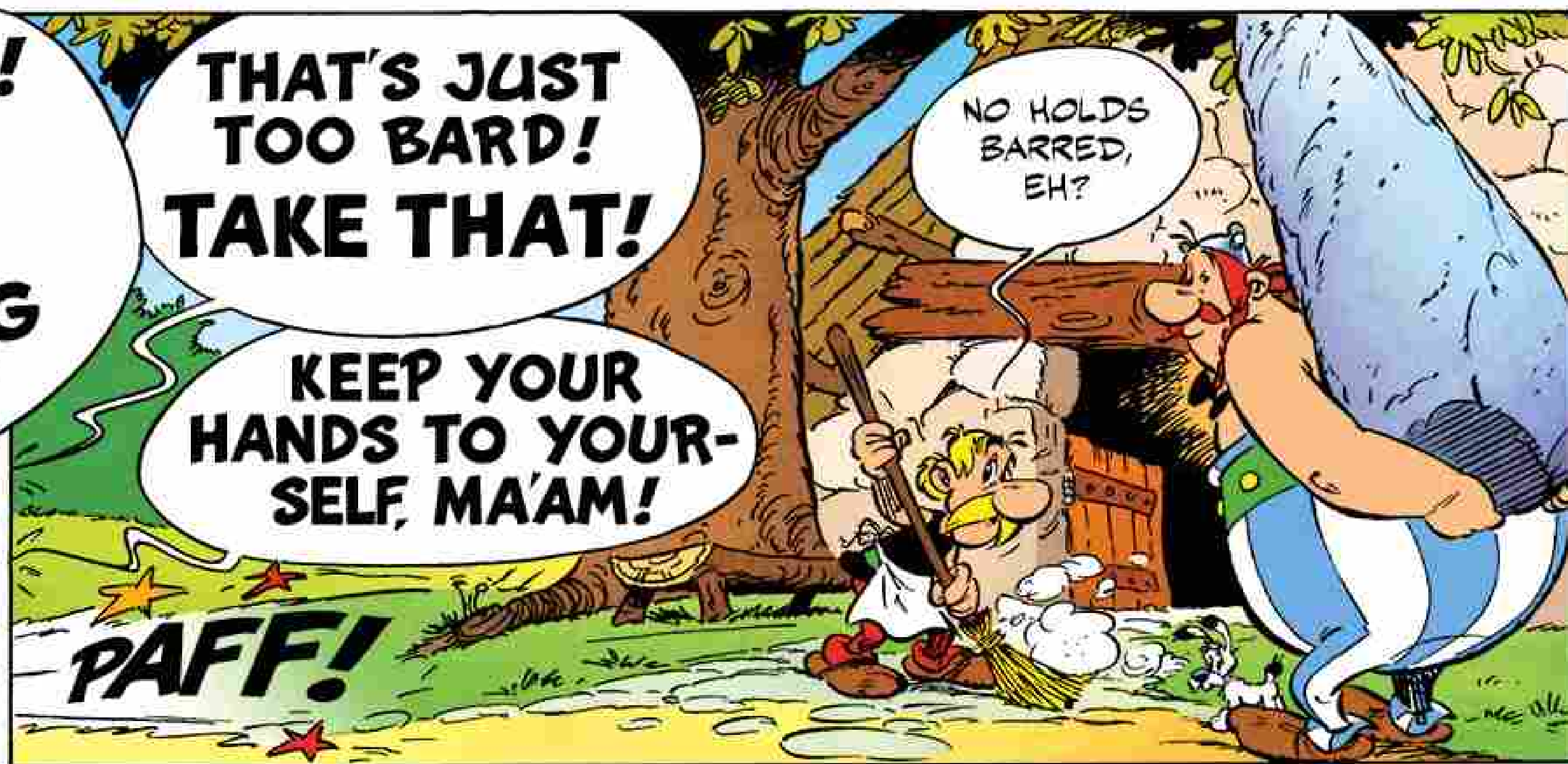
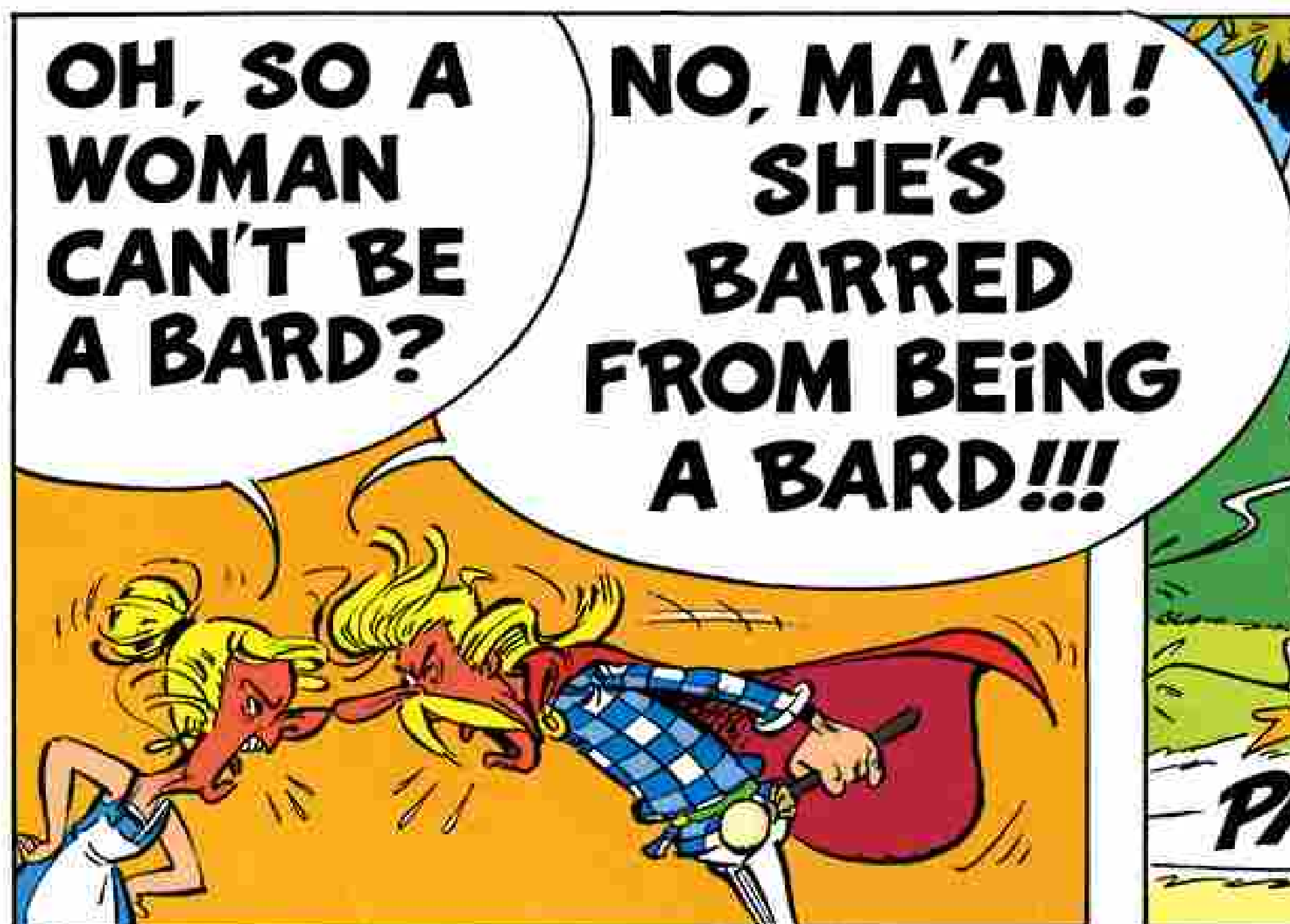
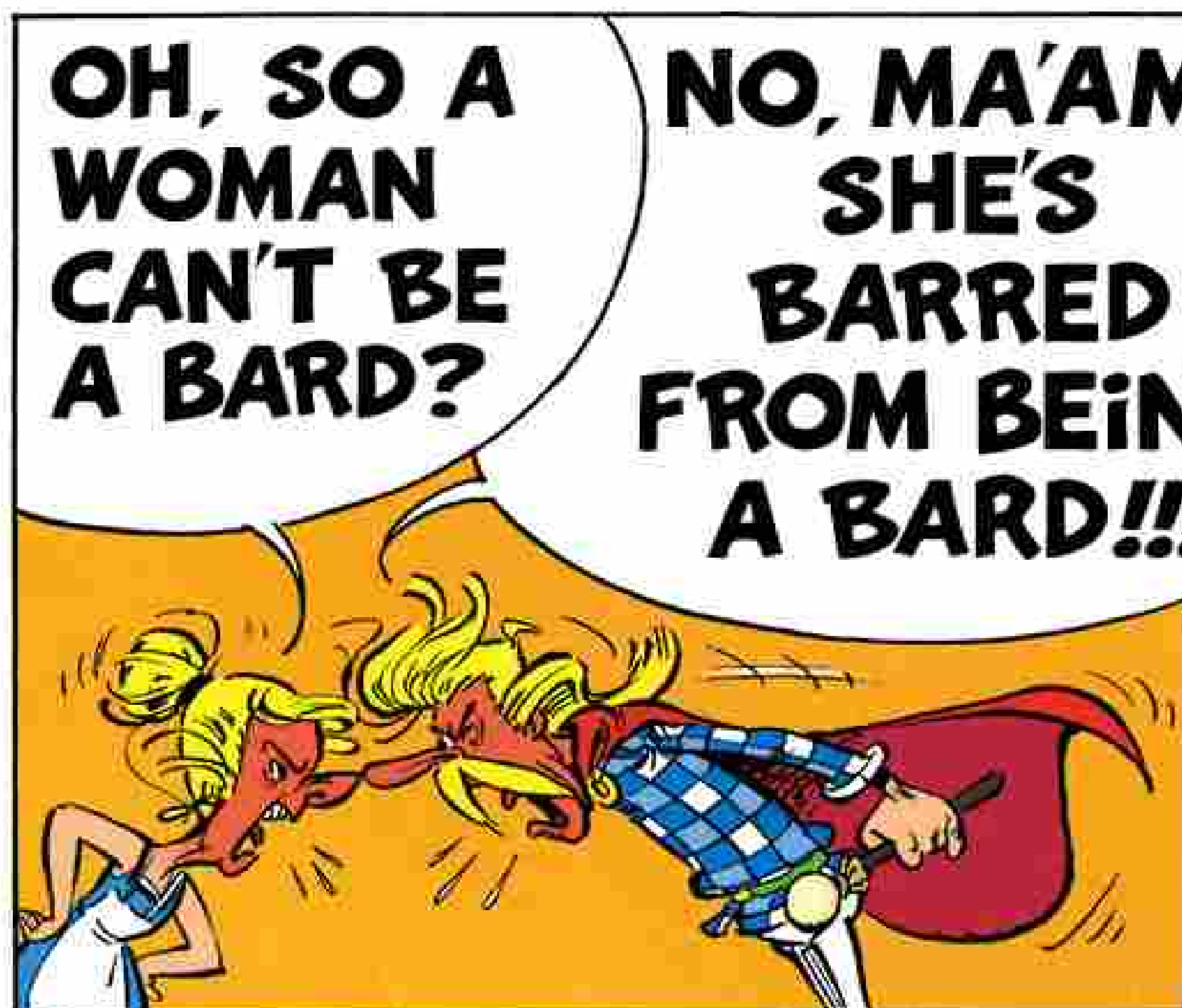
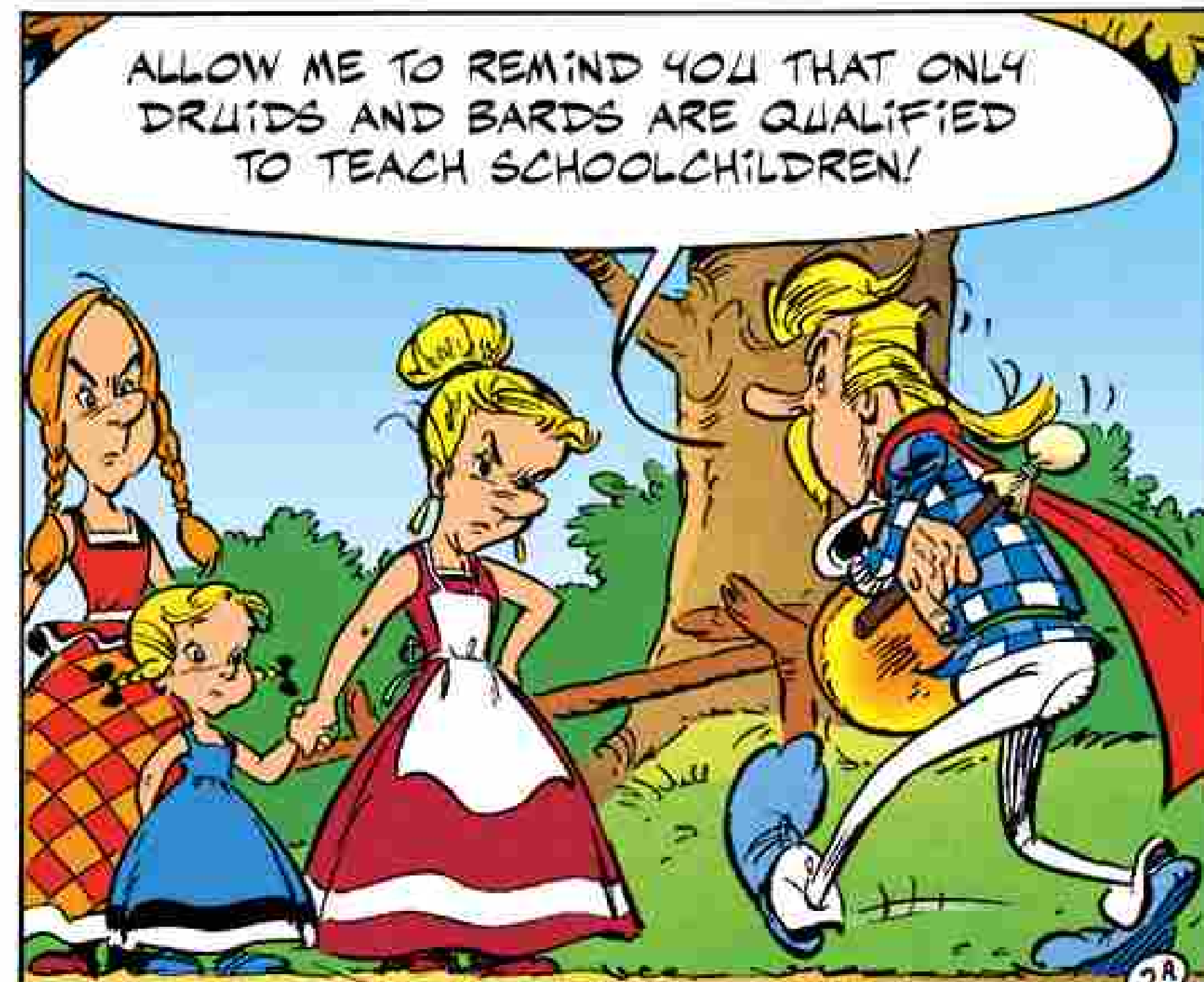
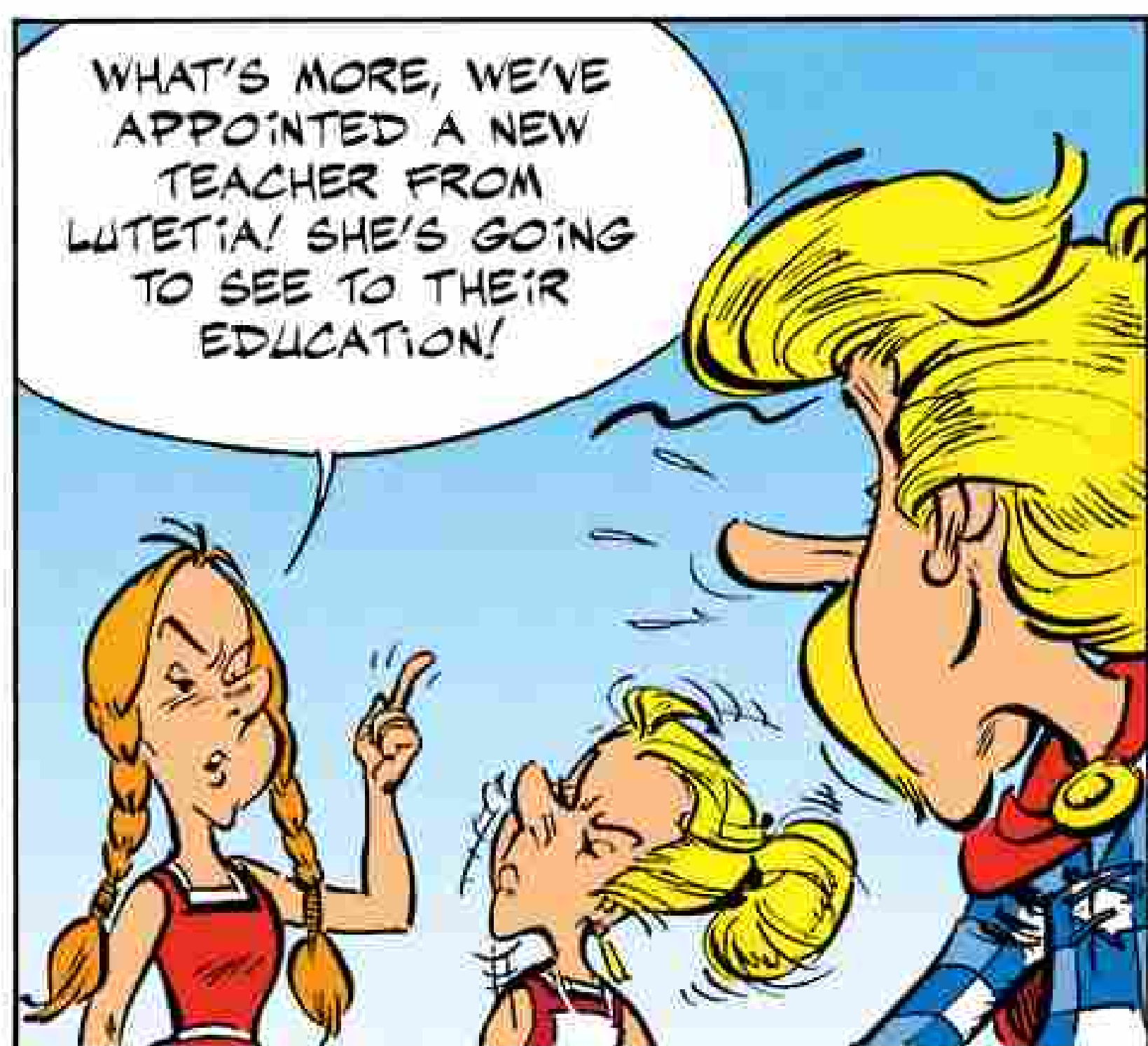


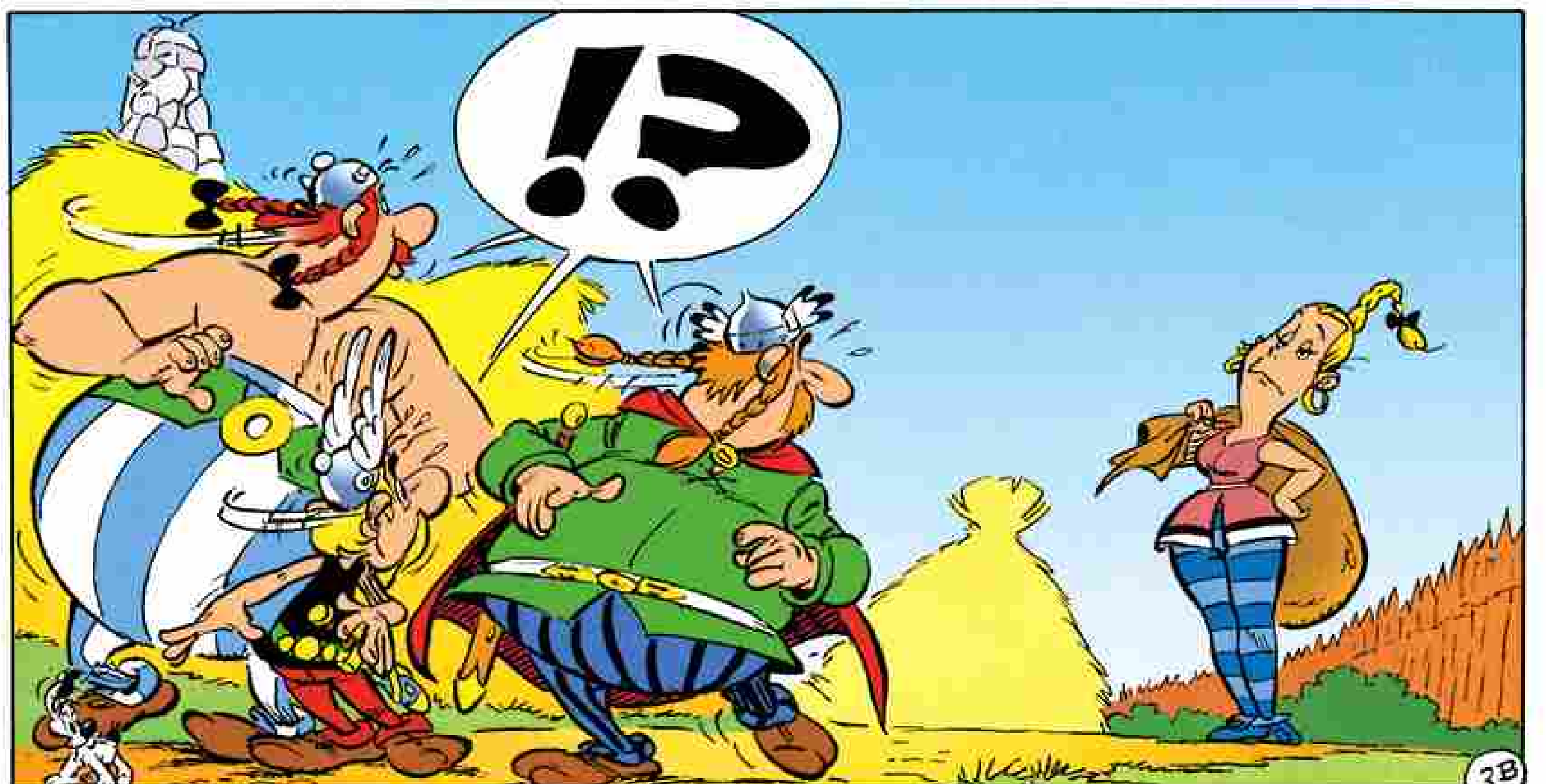
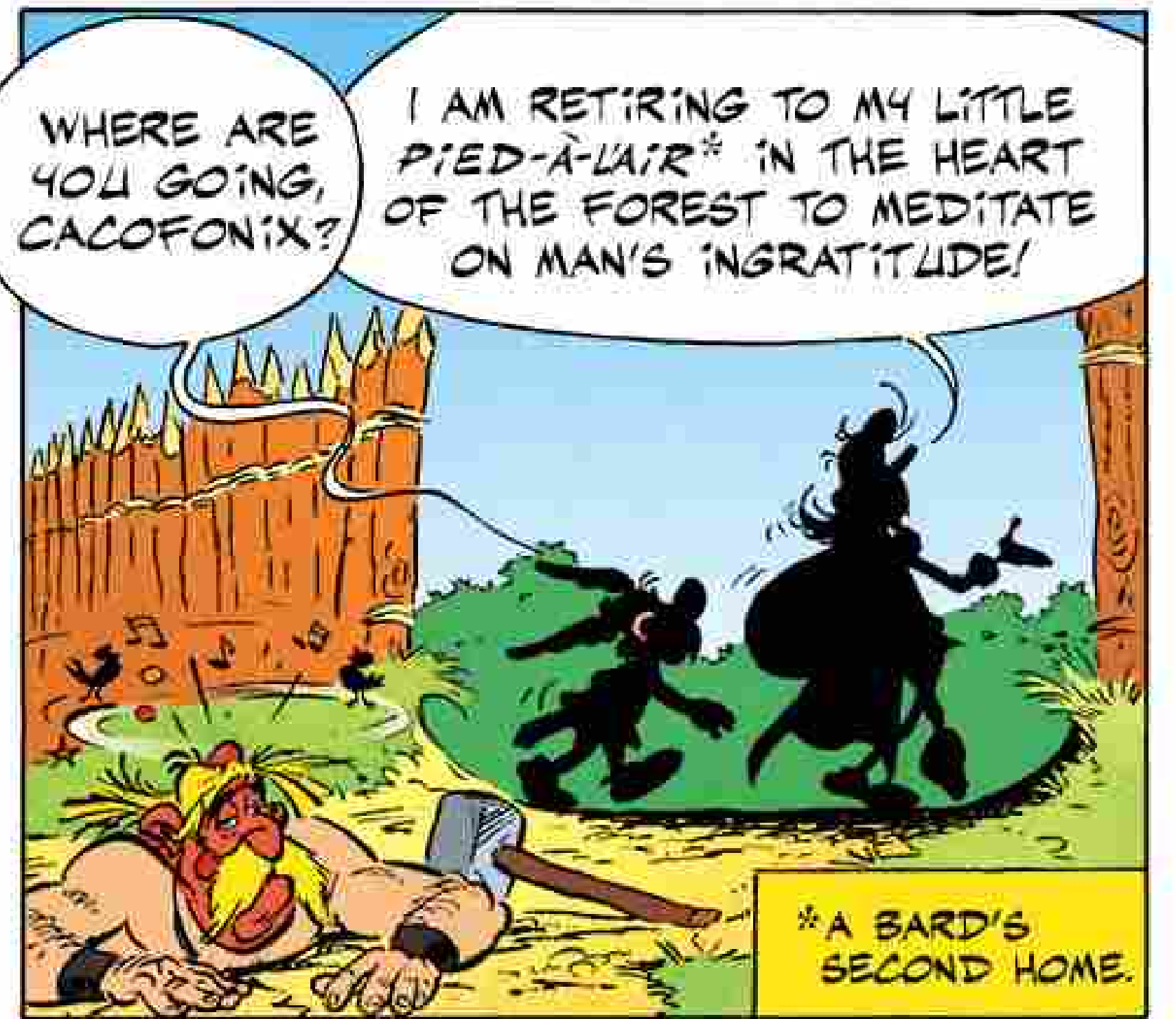
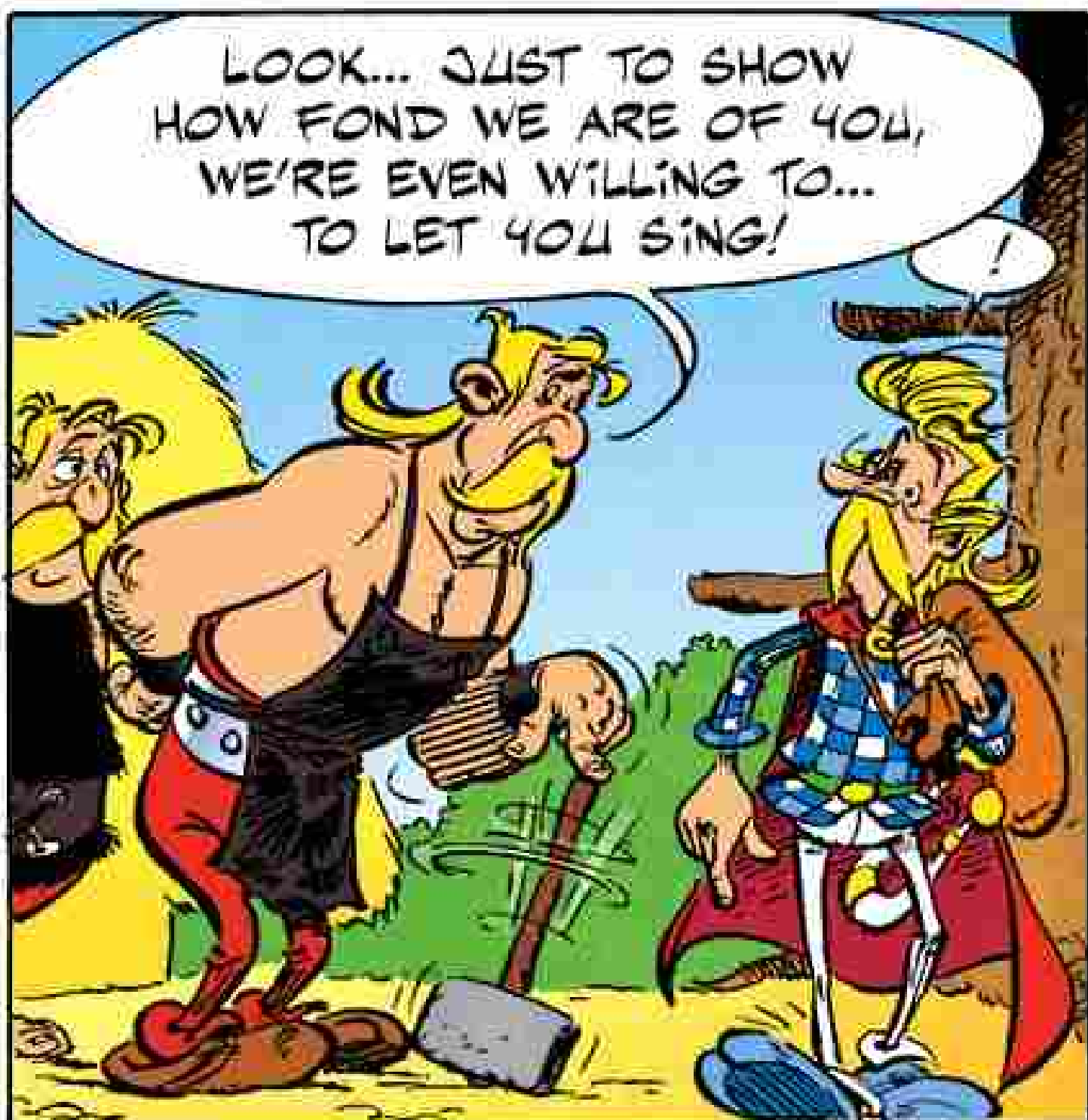
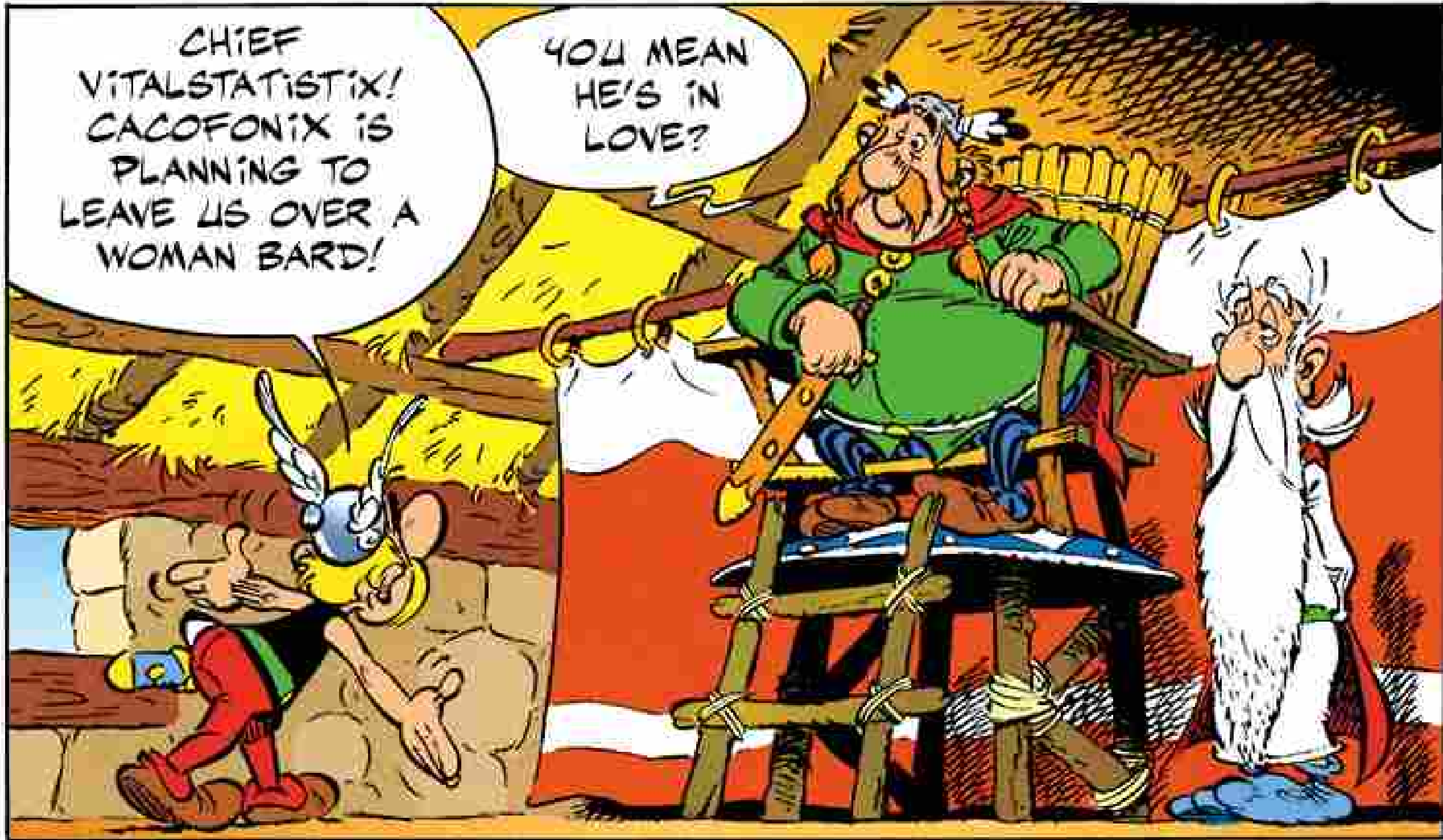
CACOFONIX, THE BARD. OPINION IS DIVIDED AS TO HIS MUSICAL GIFTS. CACOFONIX THINKS HE'S A GENIUS. EVERYONE ELSE THINKS HE'S UNSPEAKABLE. BUT SO LONG AS HE DOESN'T SPEAK, LET ALONE SING, EVERYBODY LIKES HIM . . .

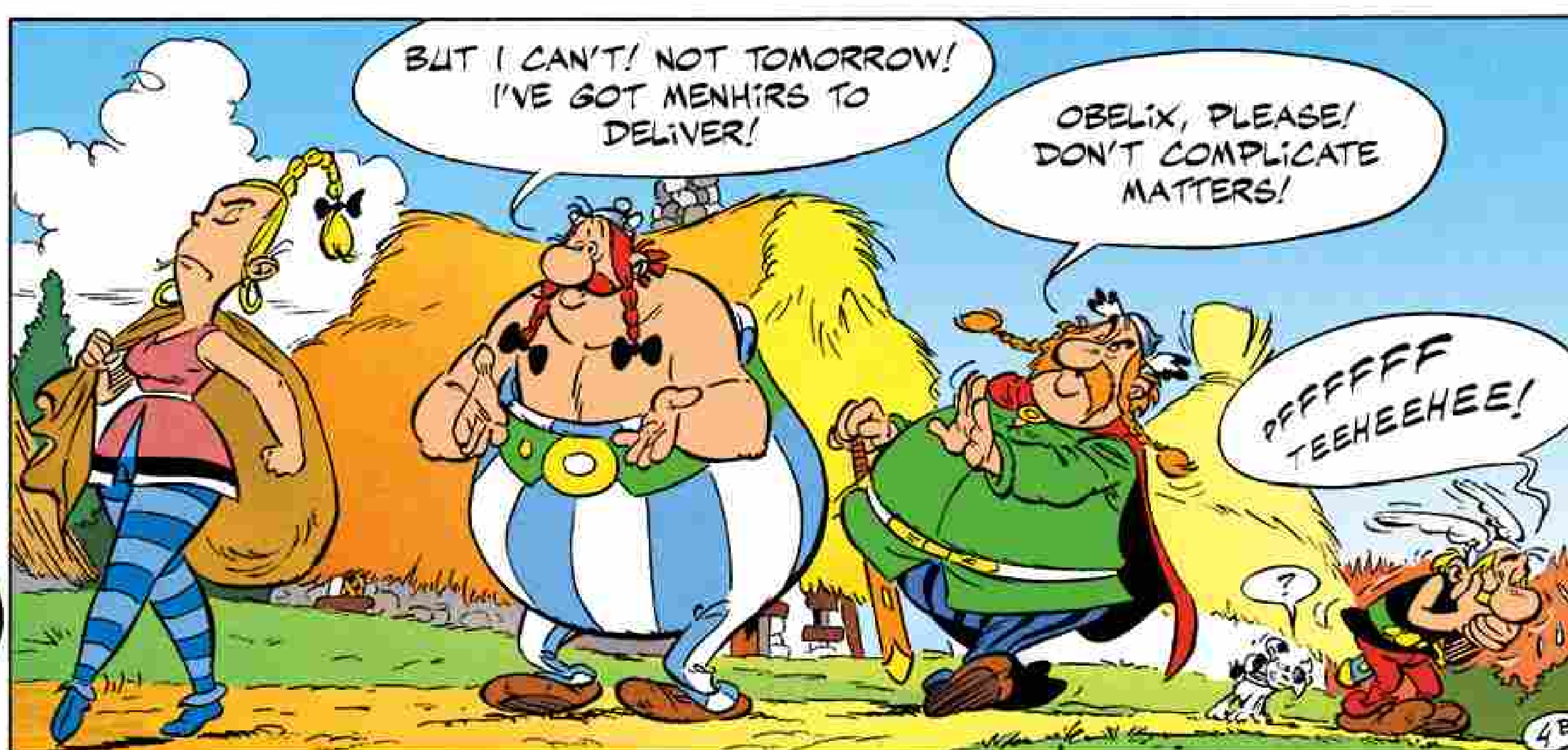
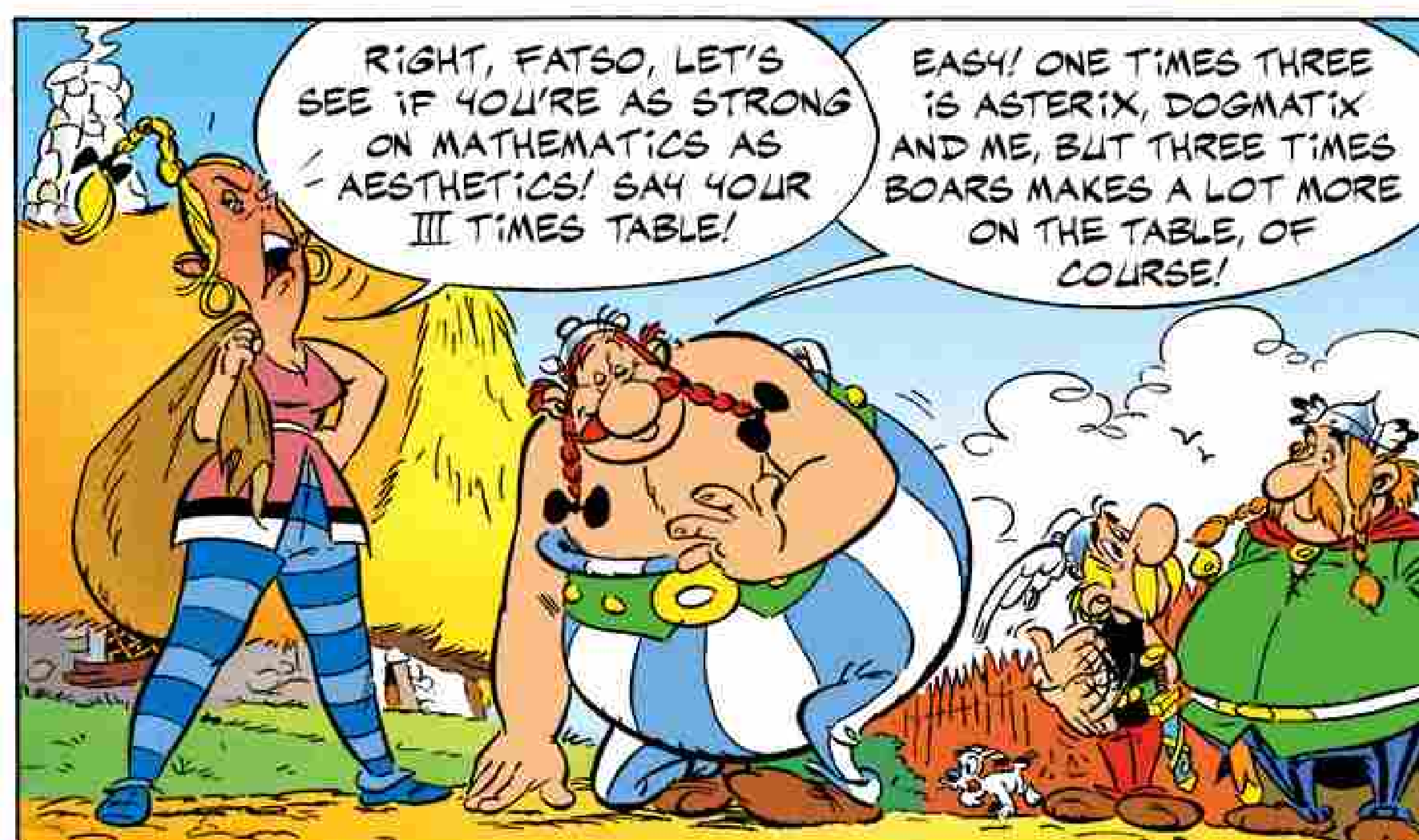
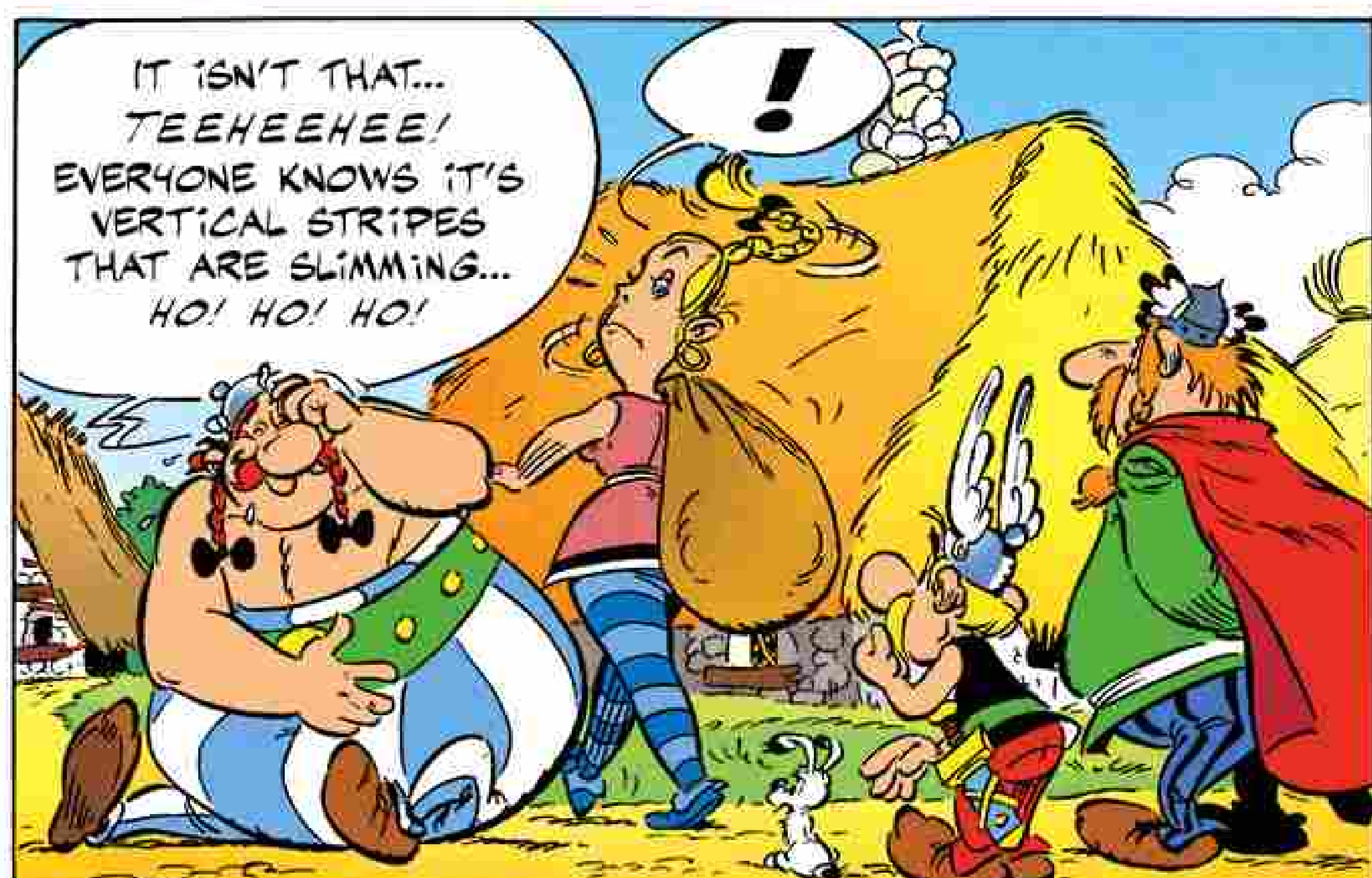


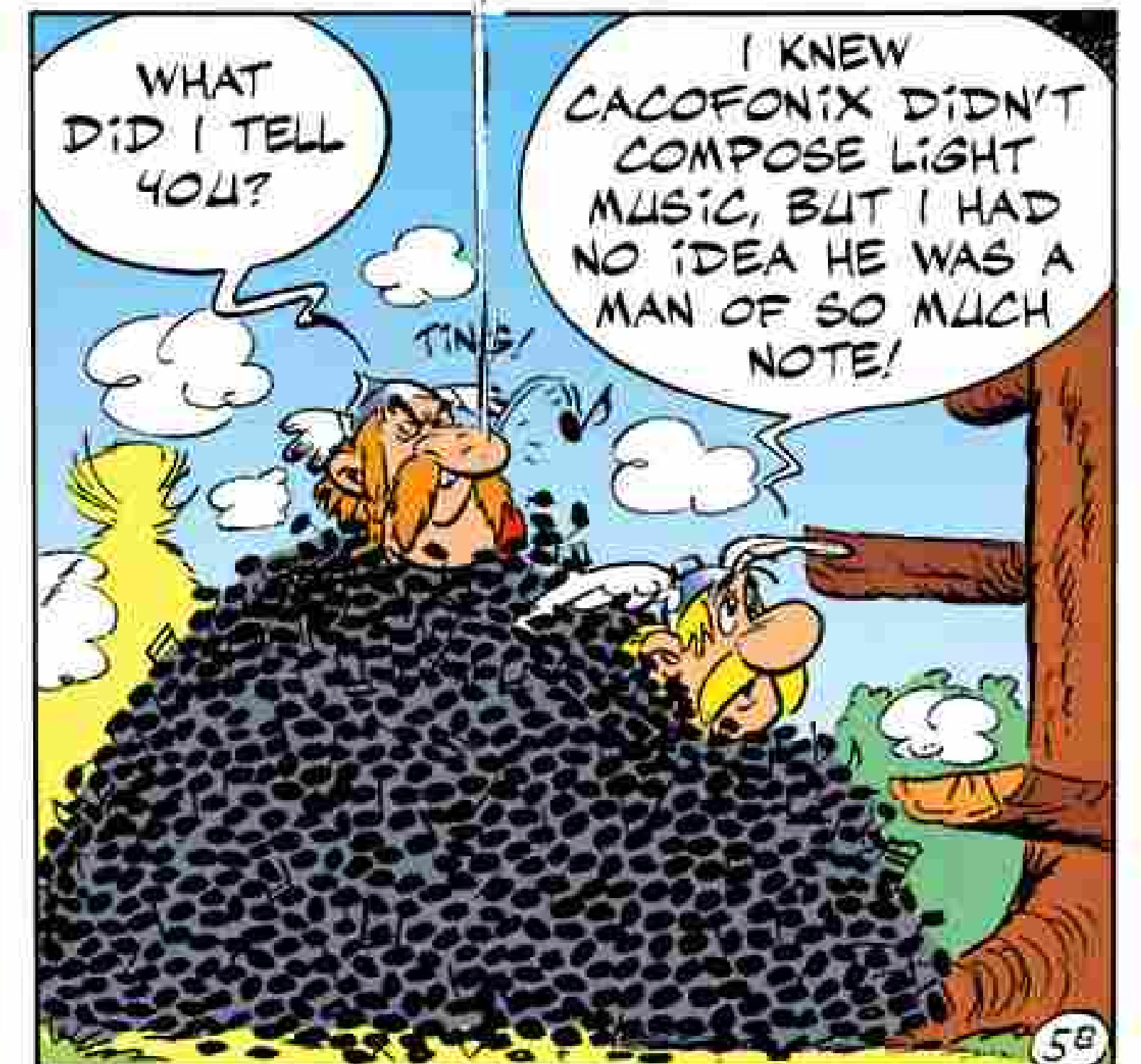
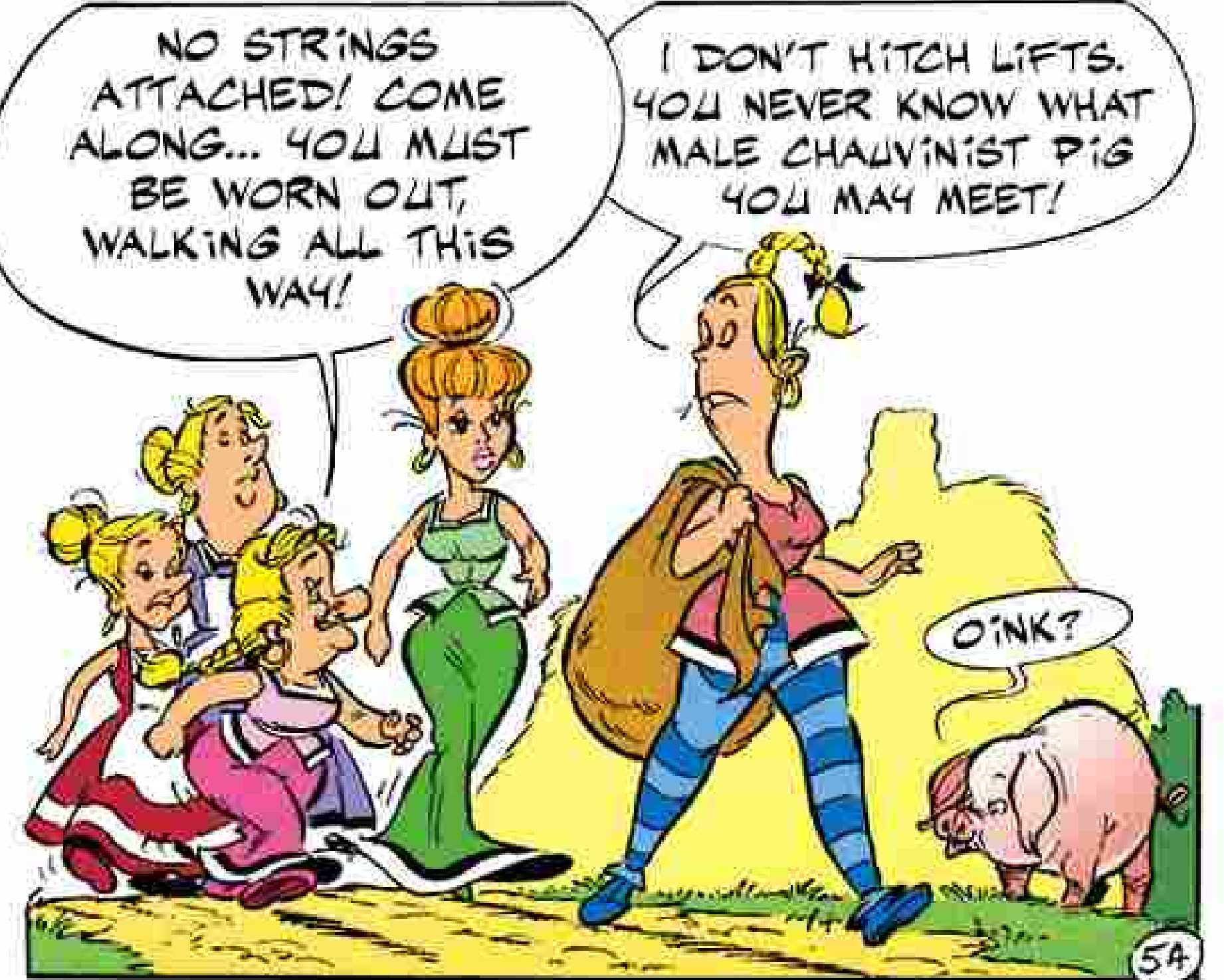
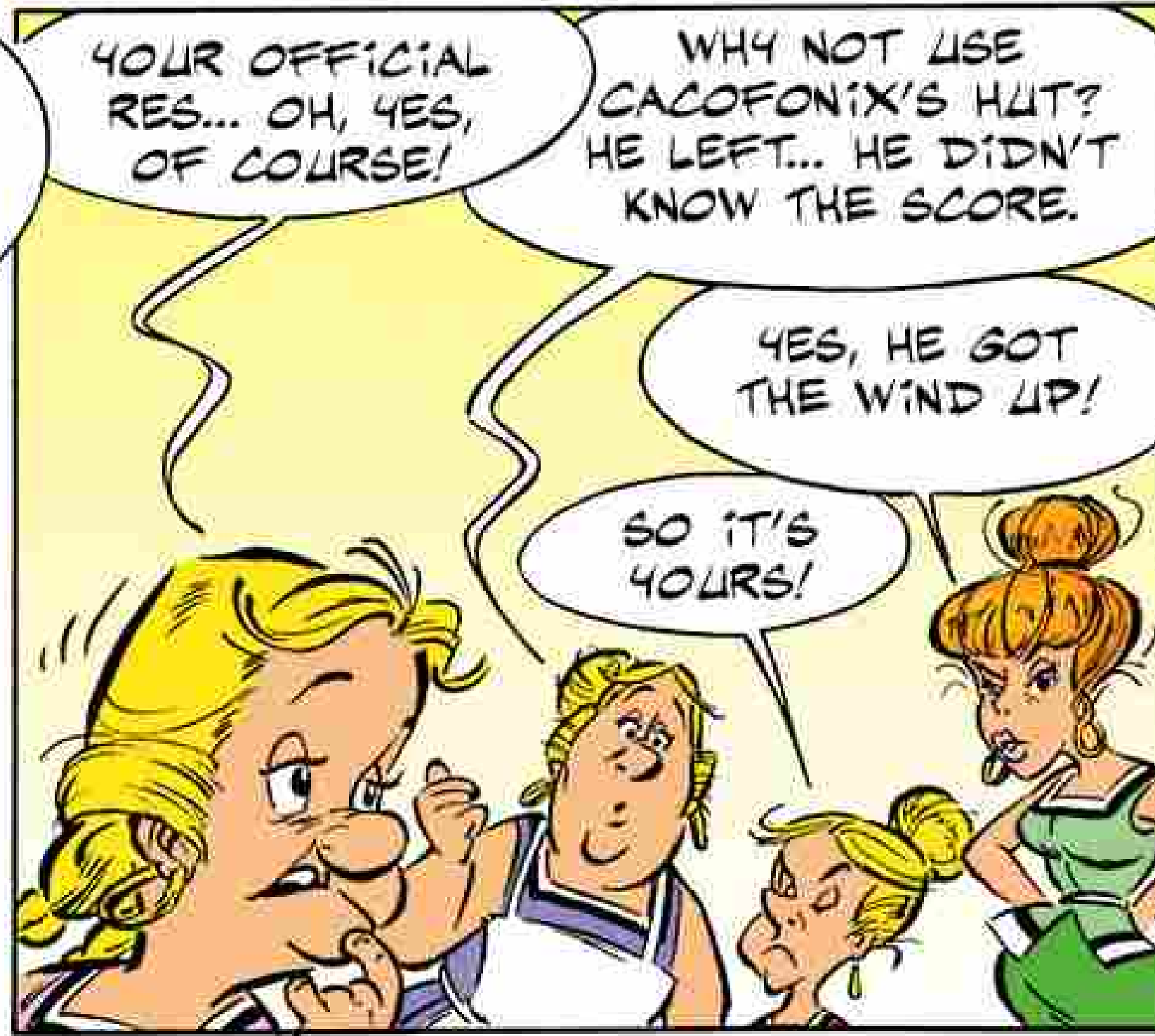
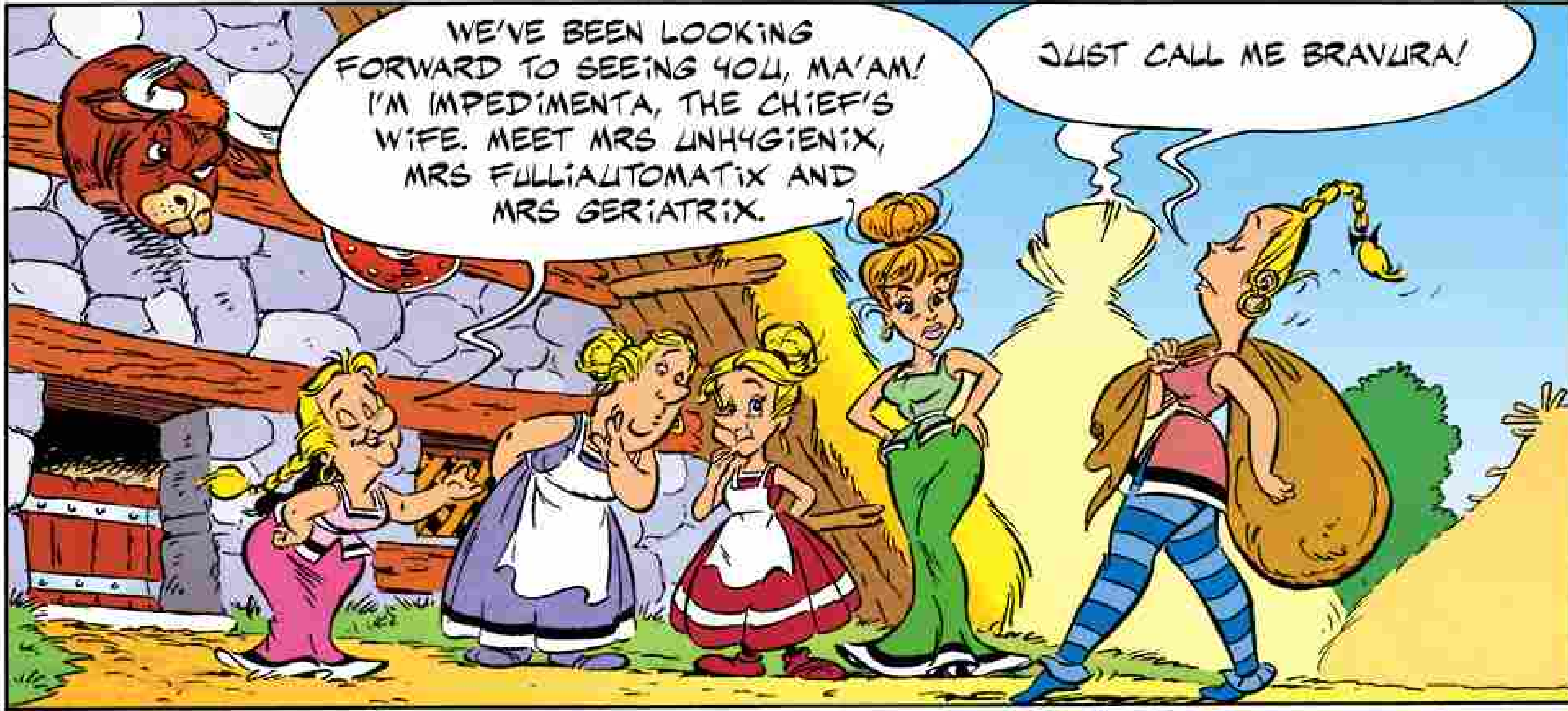
FINALLY, VITALSTATISTIX, THE CHIEF OF THE TRIBE. MAJESTIC, BRAVE AND HOT-TEMPERED, THE OLD WARRIOR IS RESPECTED BY HIS MEN AND FEARED BY HIS ENEMIES. VITALSTATISTIX HIMSELF HAS ONLY ONE FEAR, HE IS AFRAID THE SKY MAY FALL ON HIS HEAD TOMORROW. BUT AS HE ALWAYS SAYS, TOMORROW NEVER COMES.

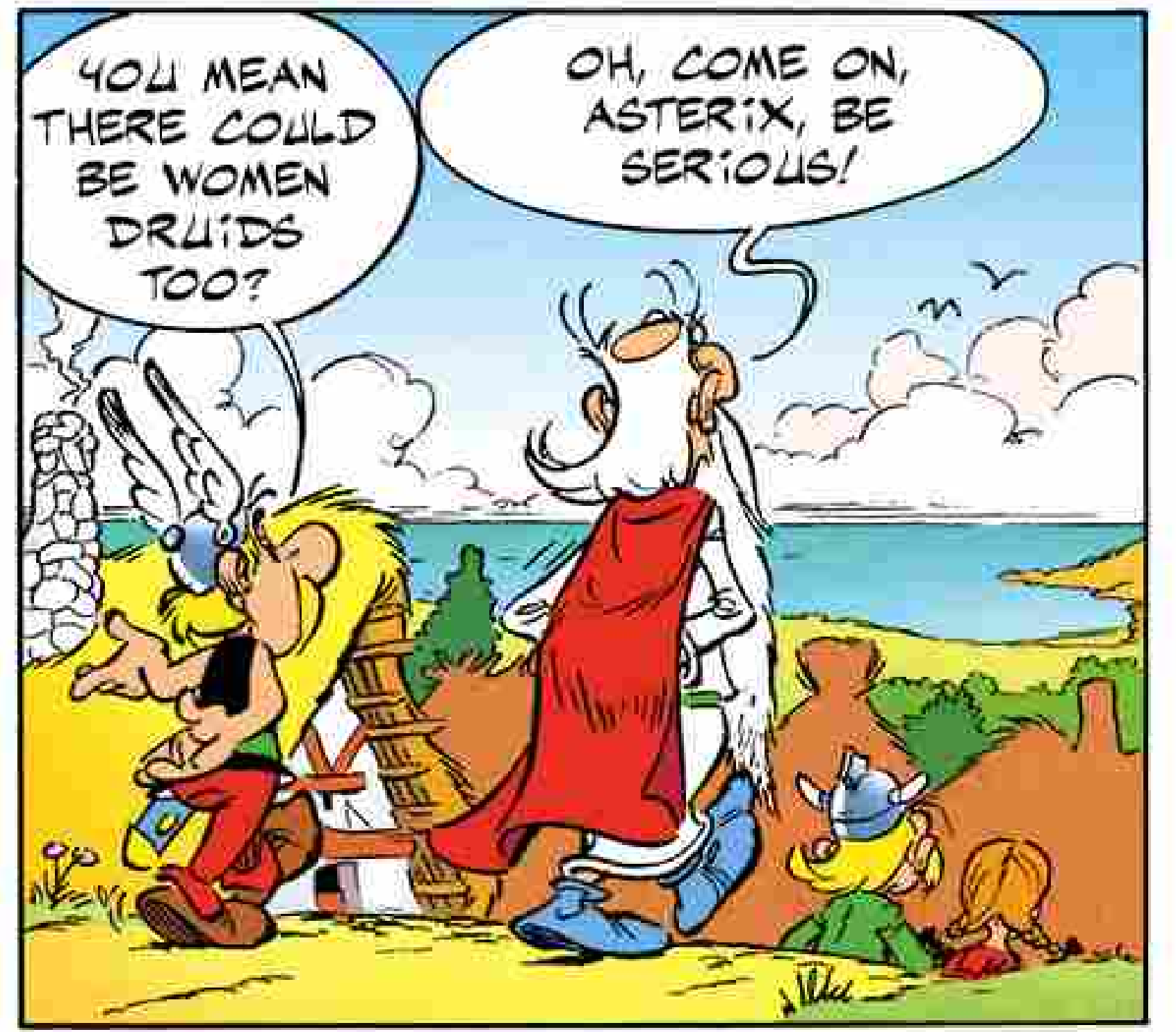
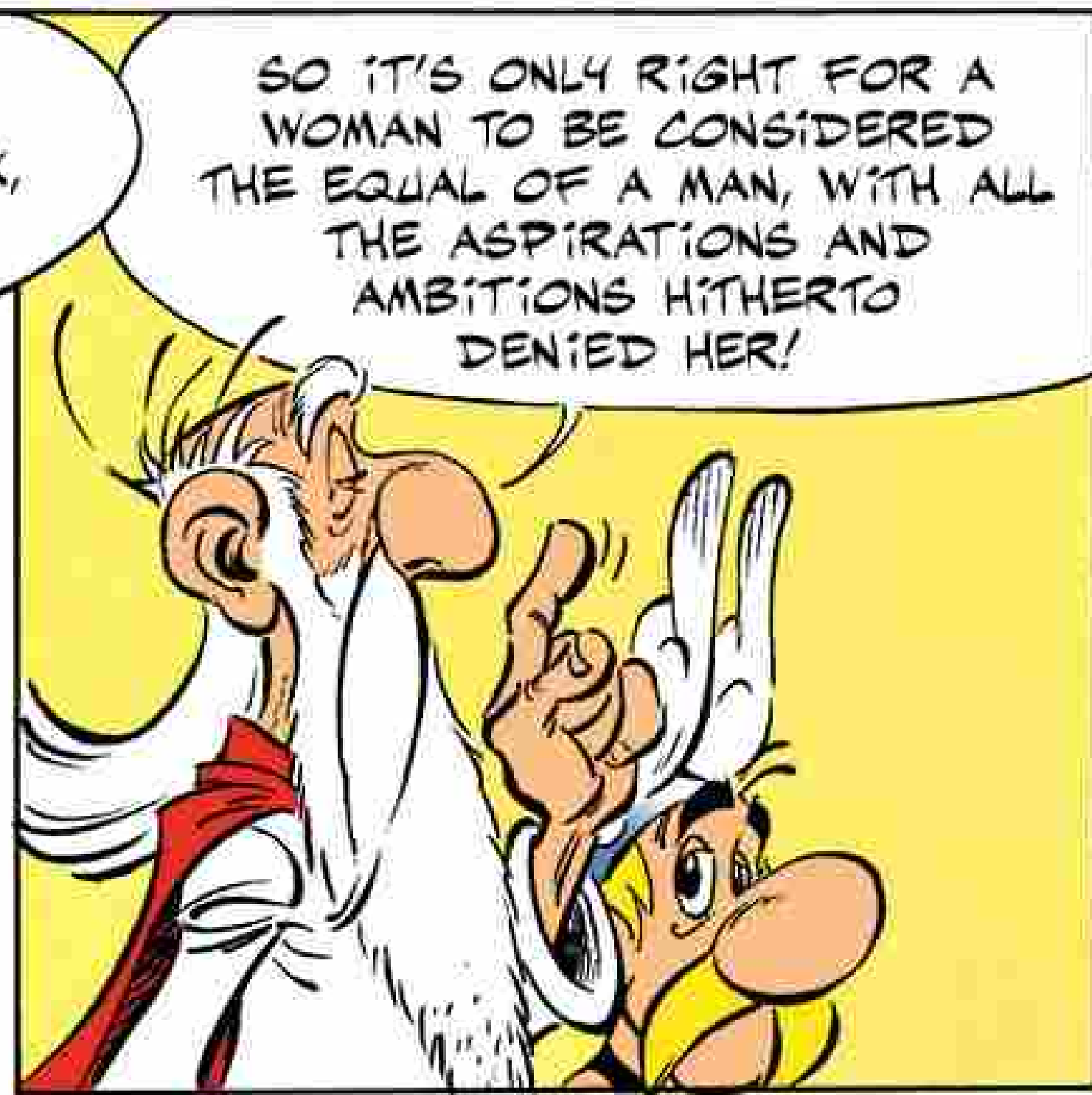
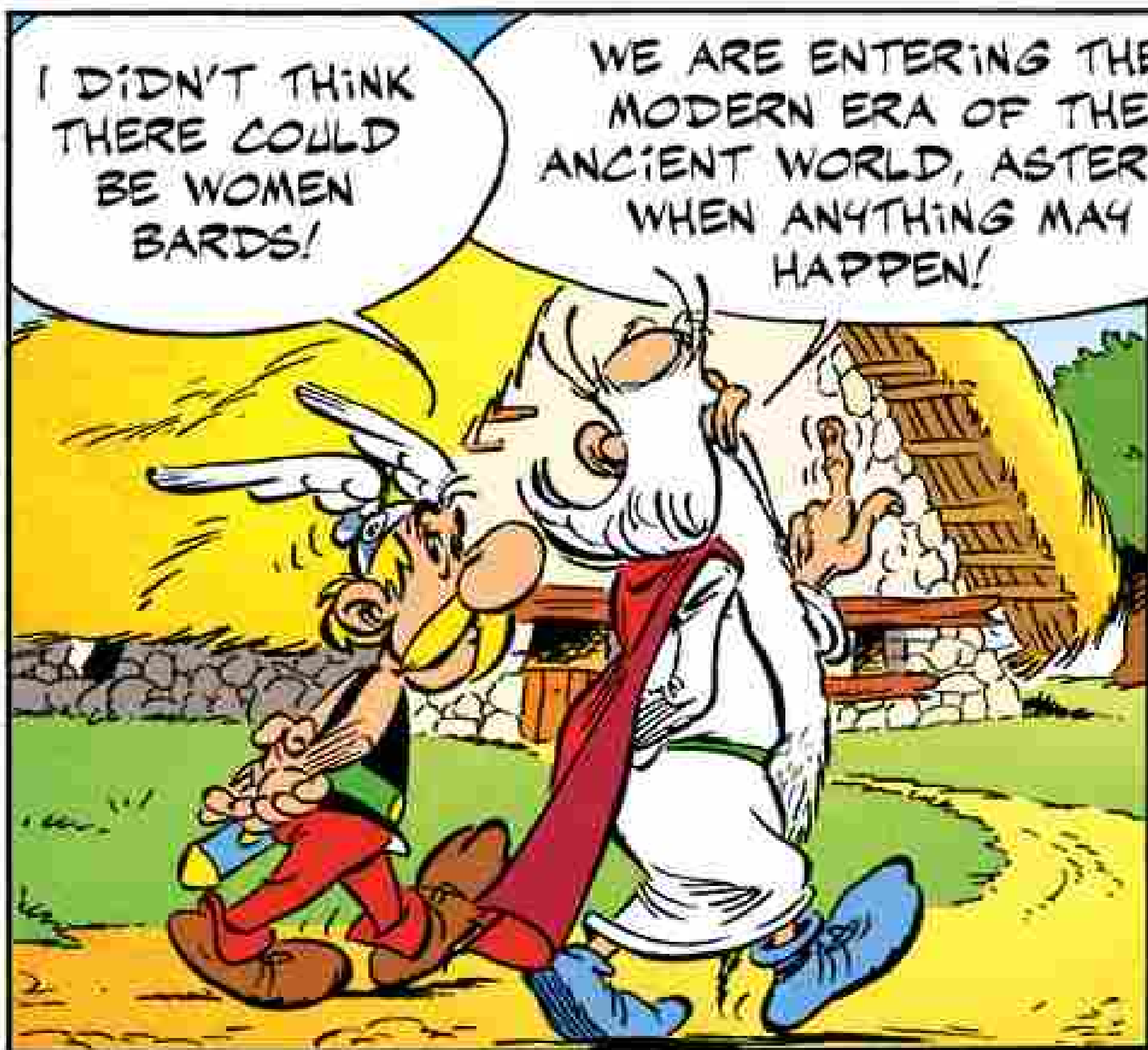
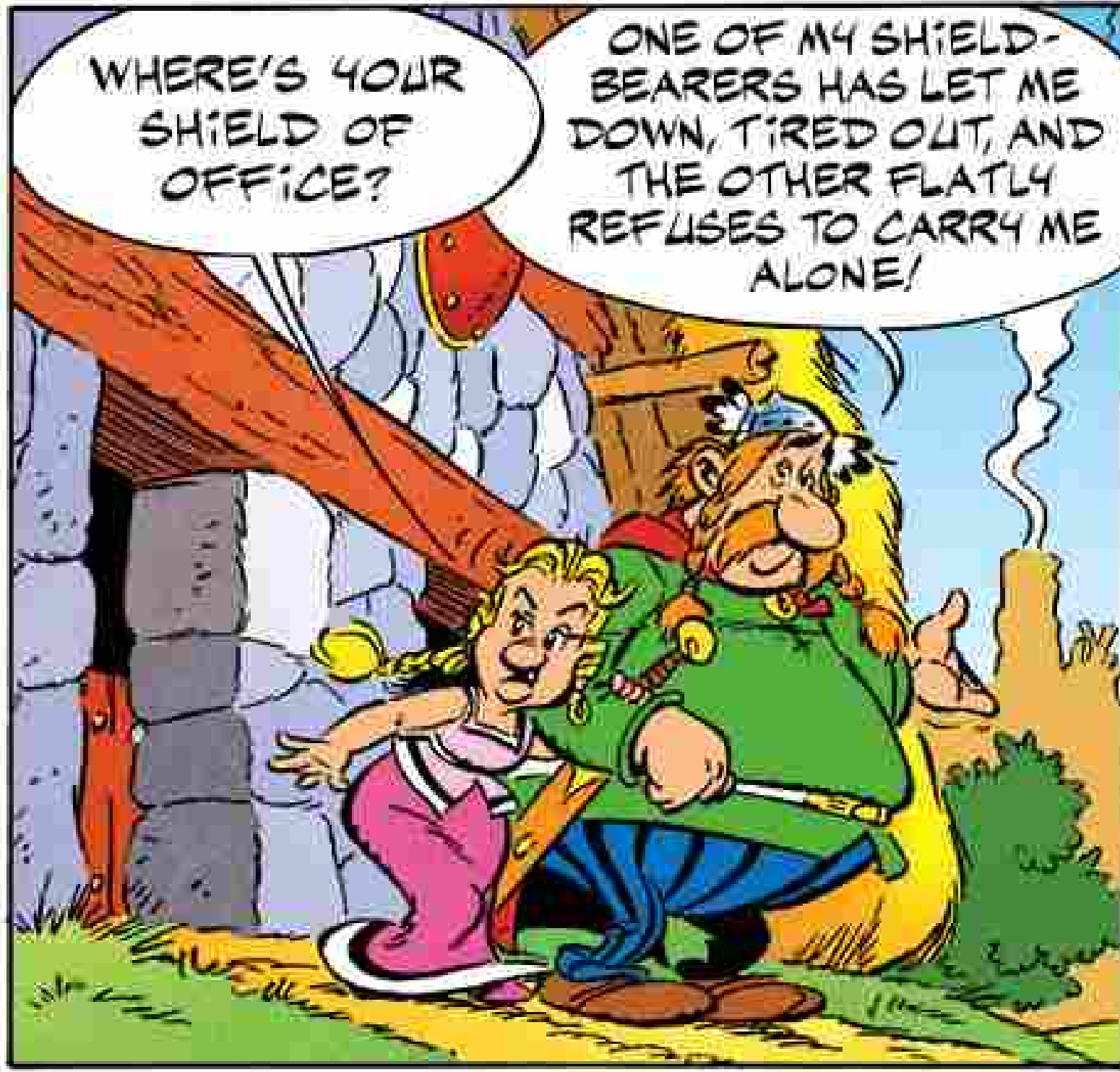
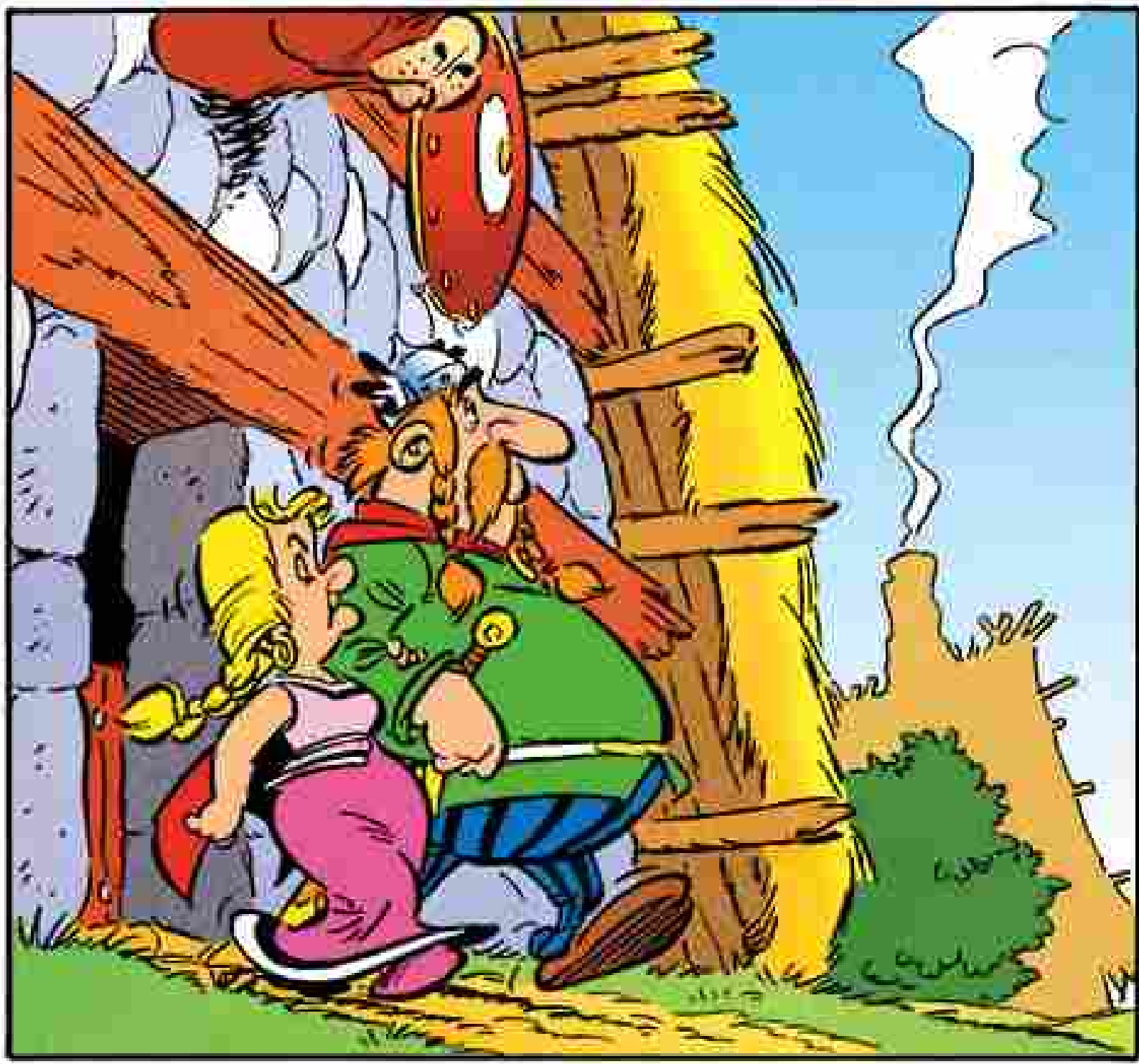
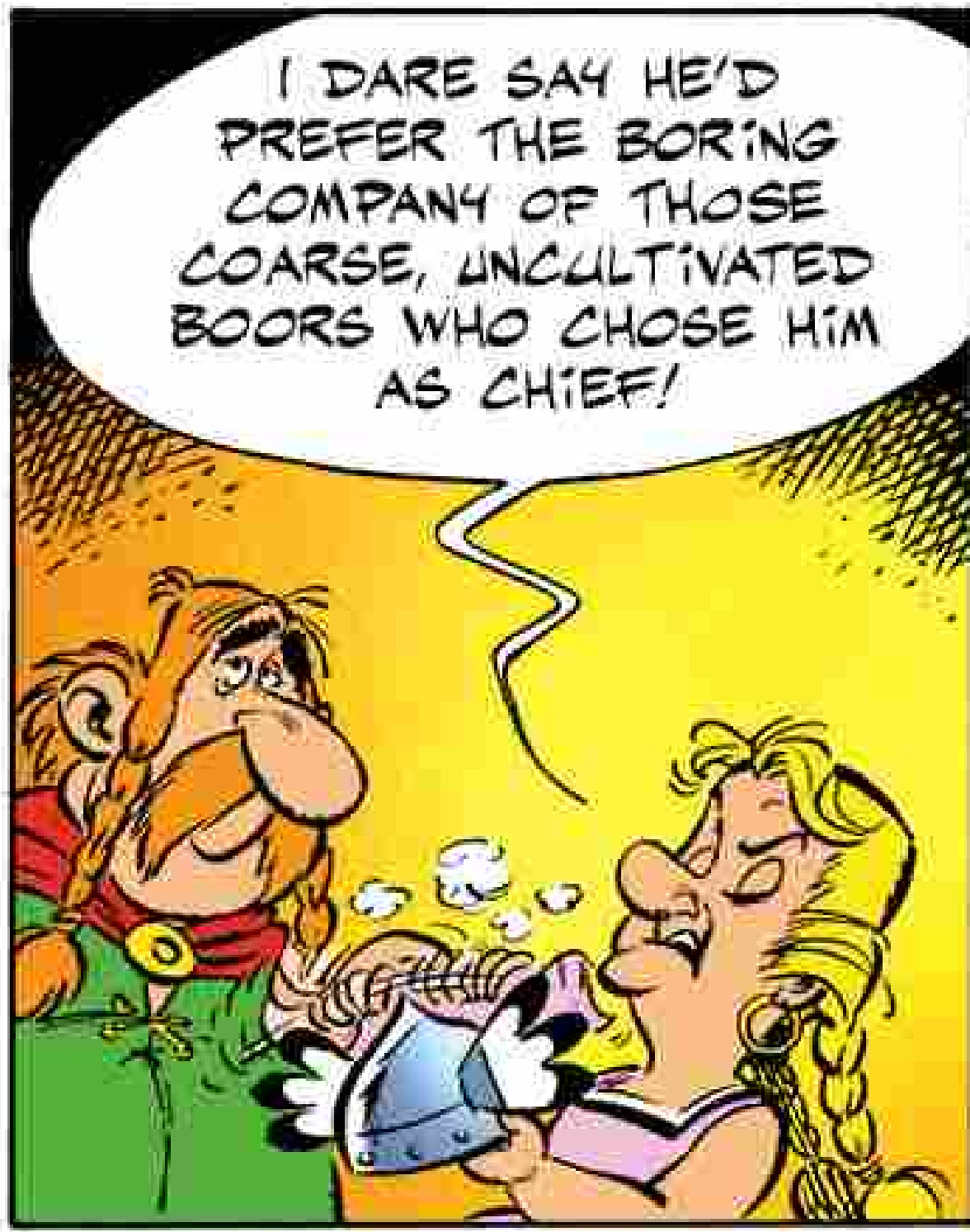
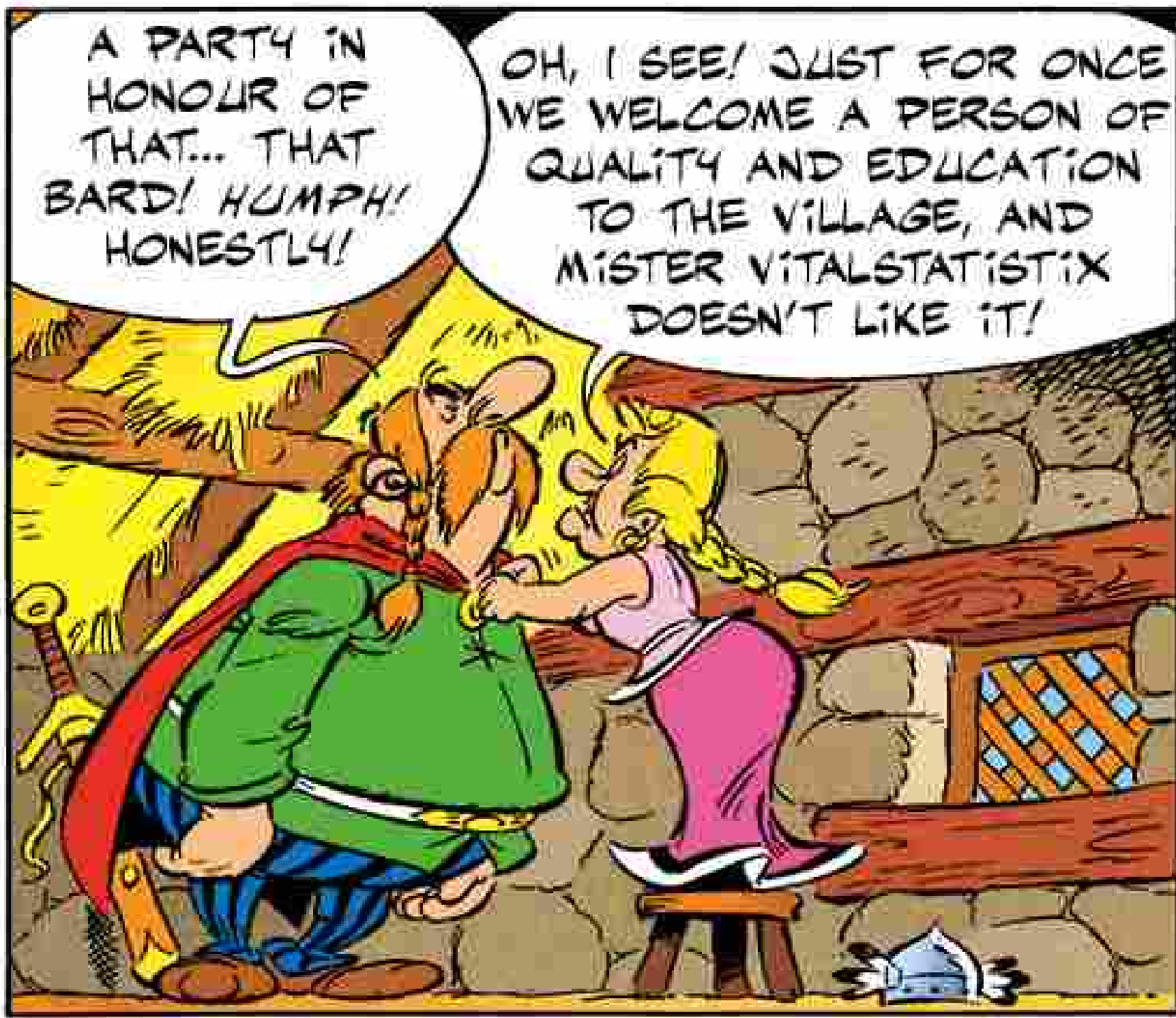


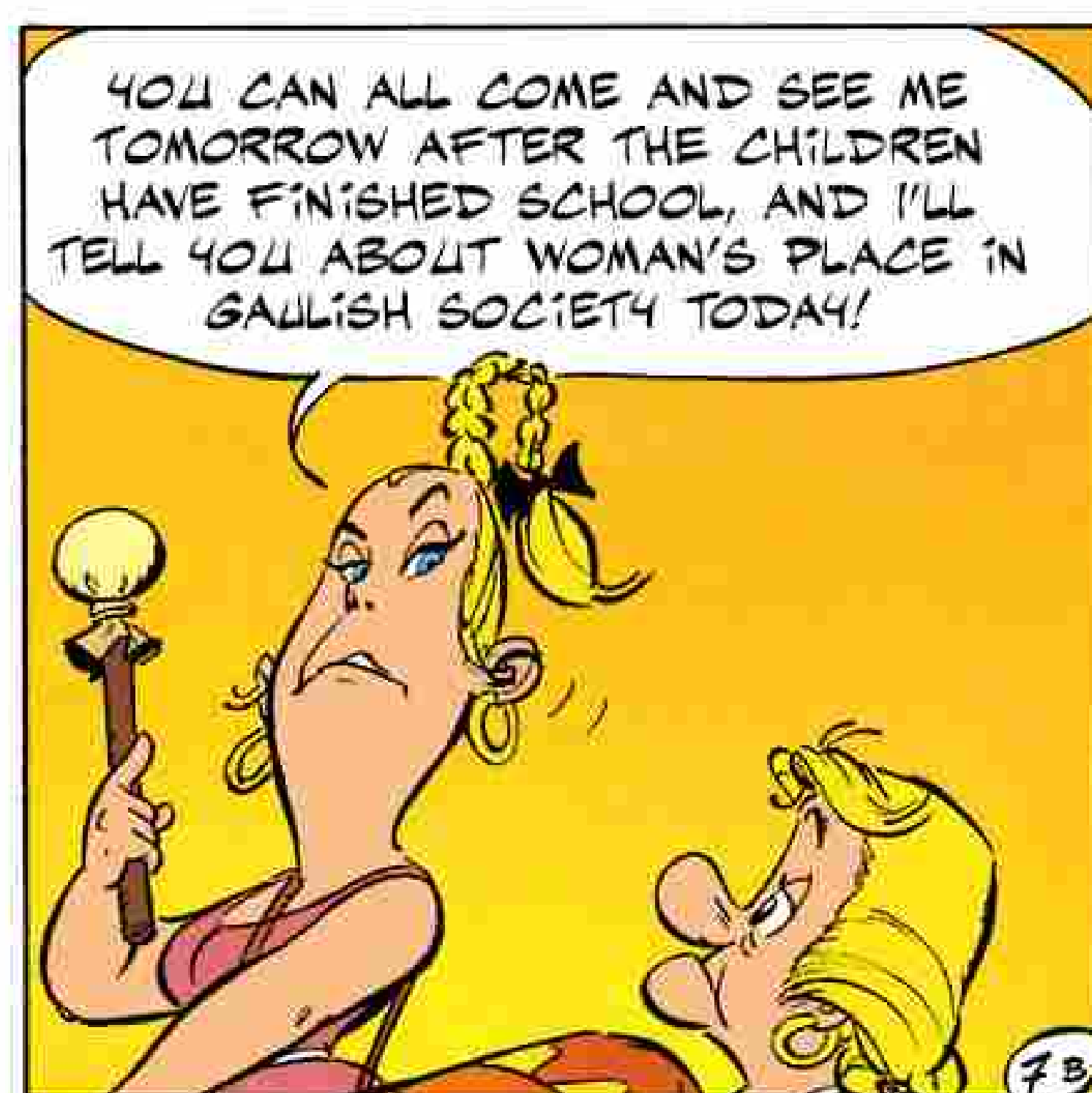
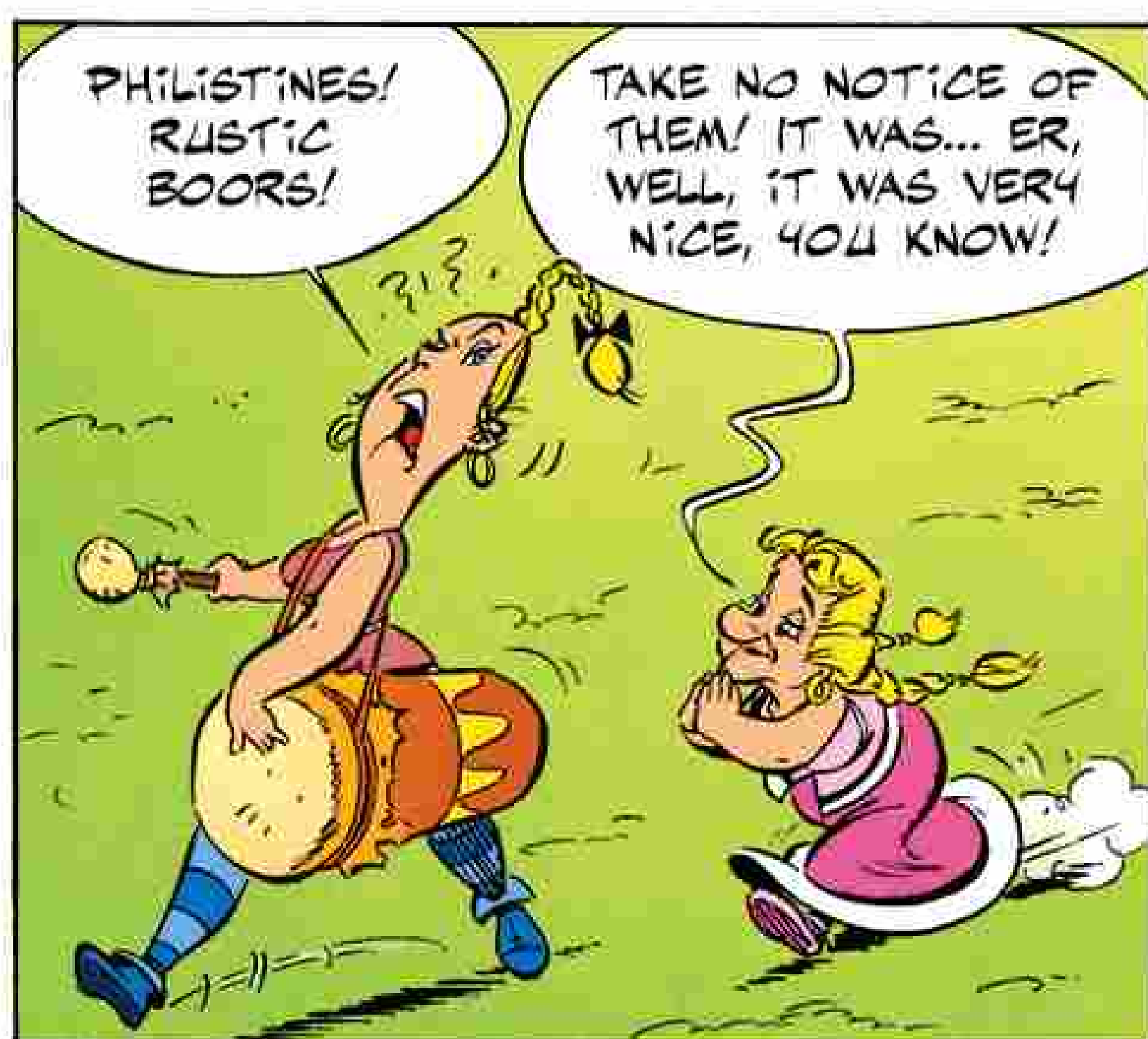
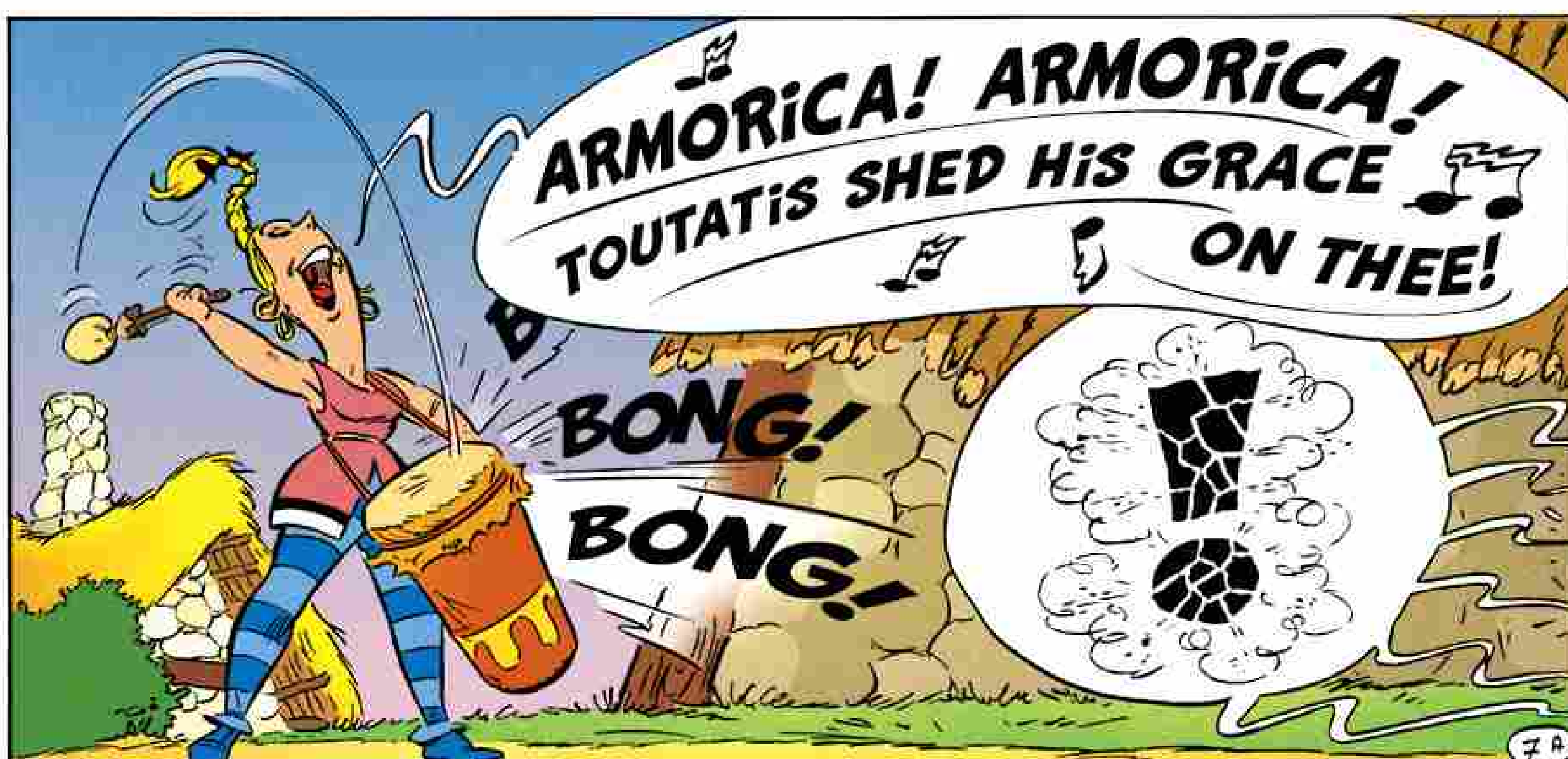
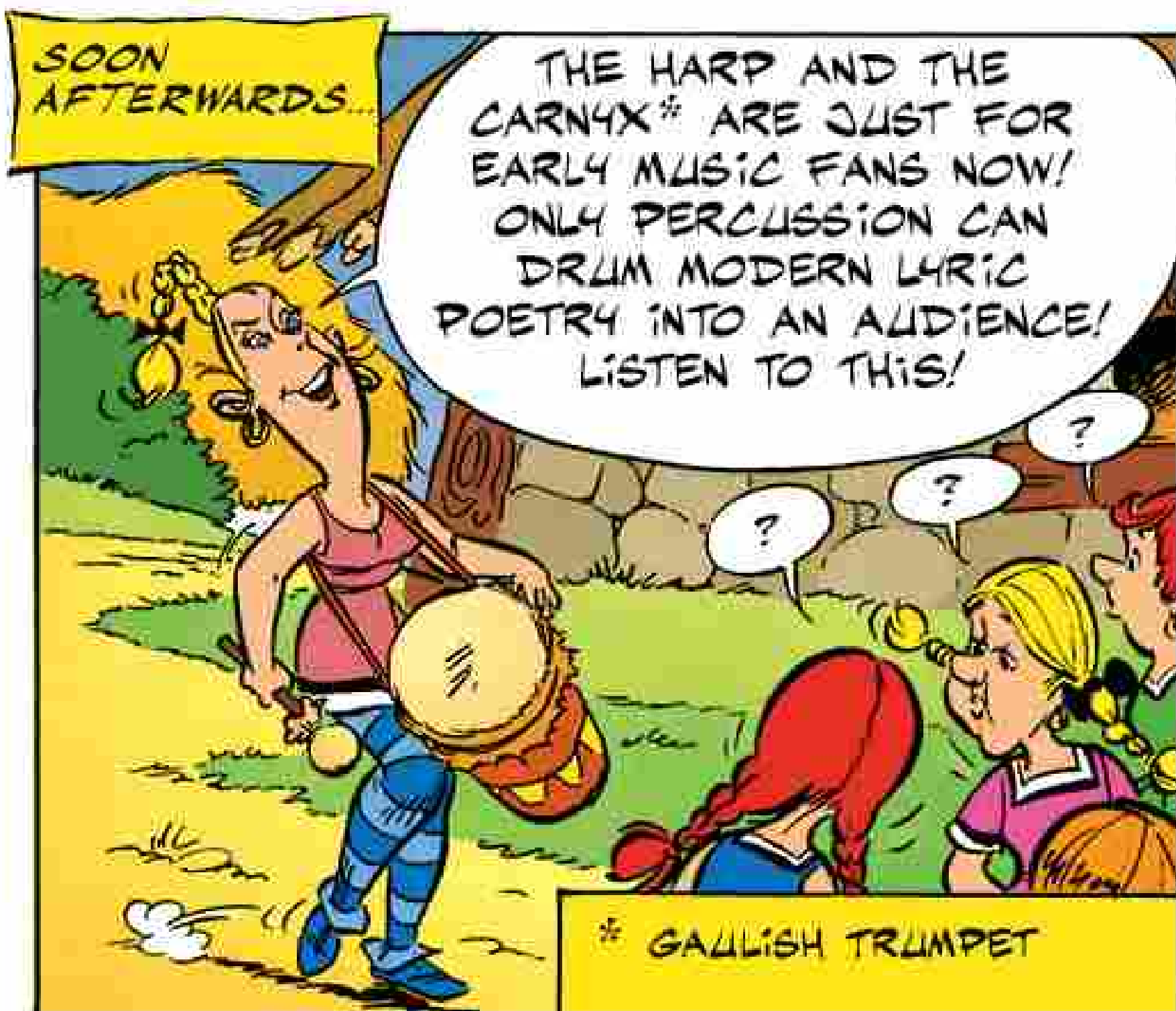








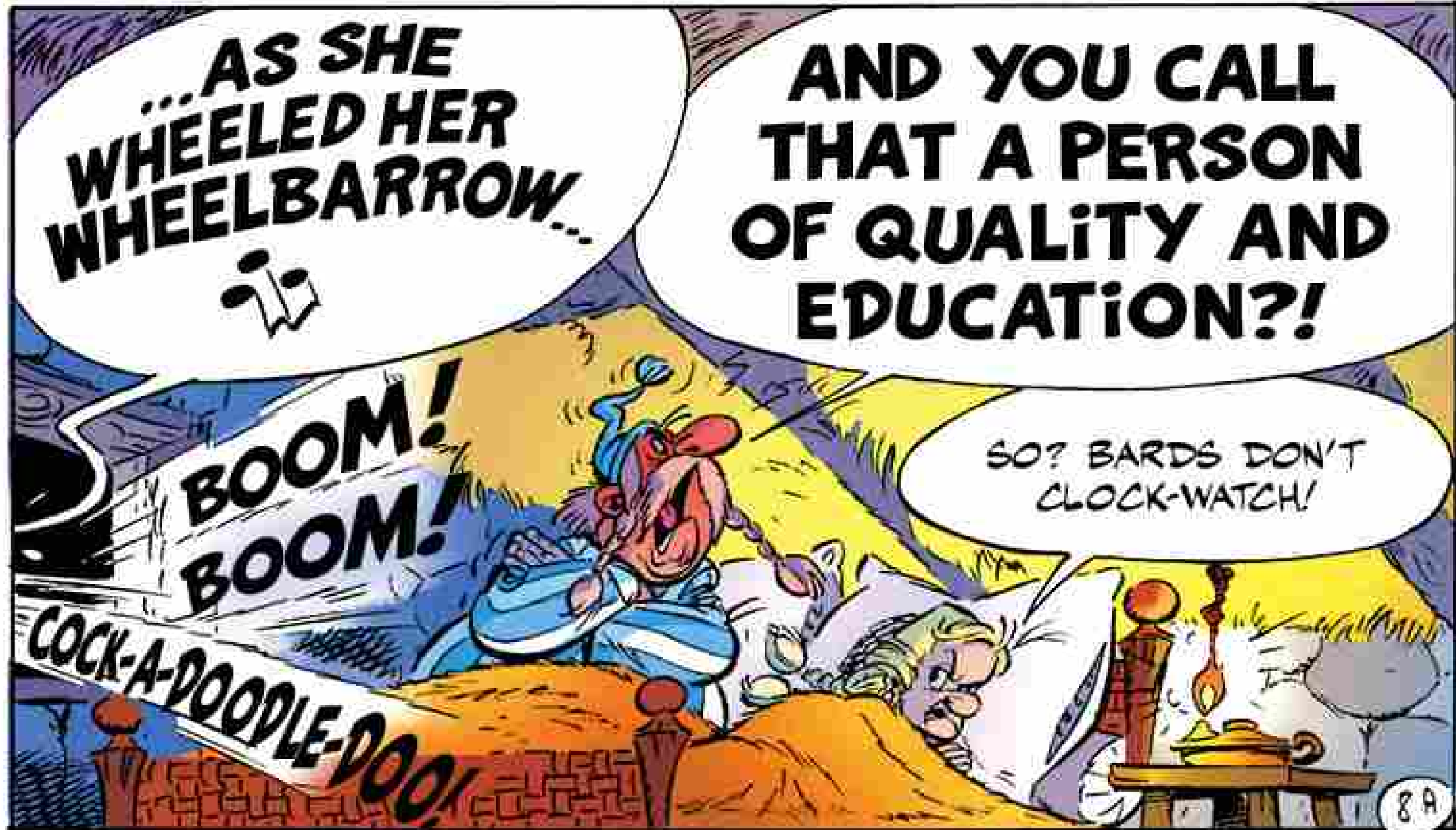
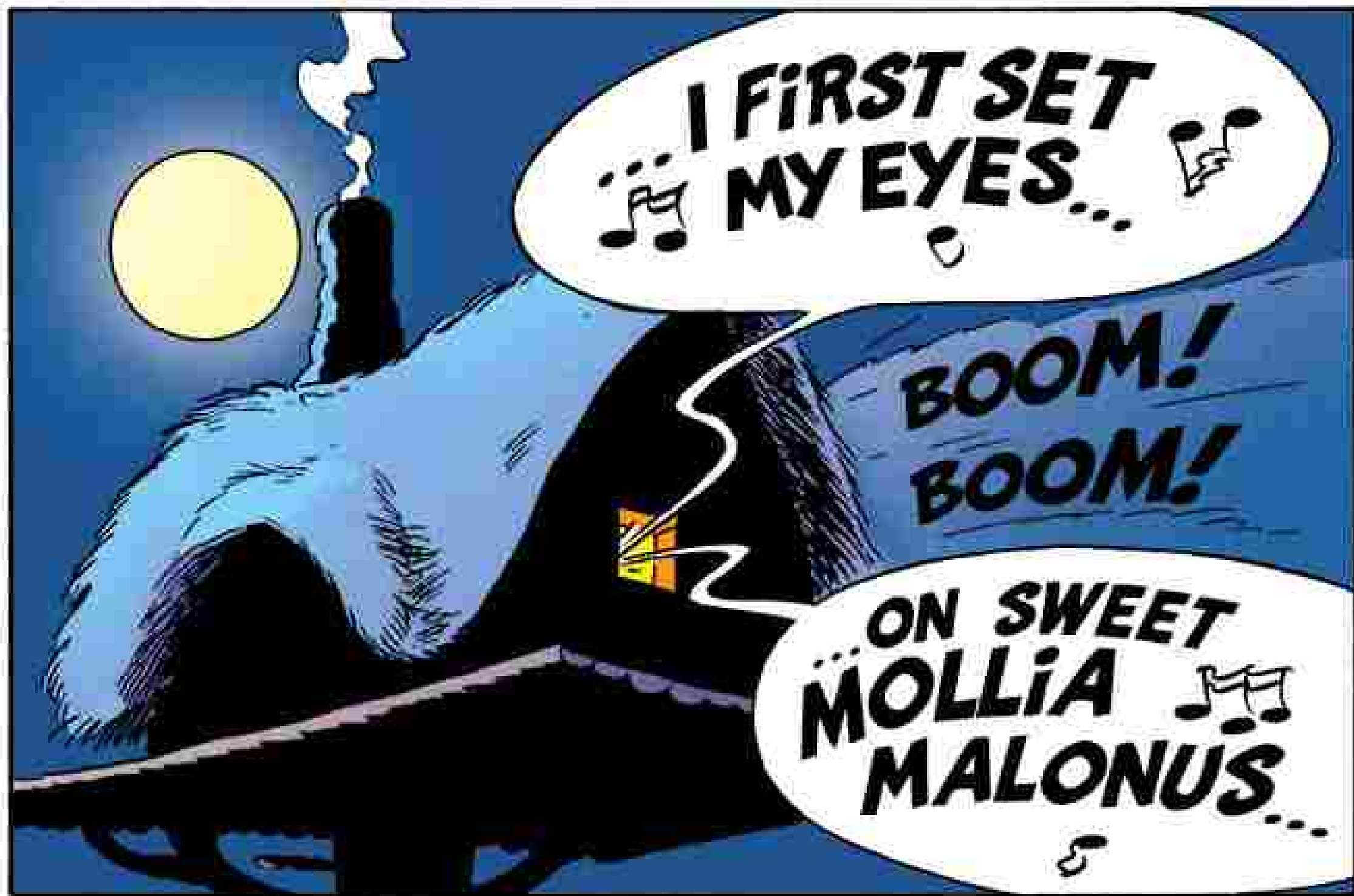


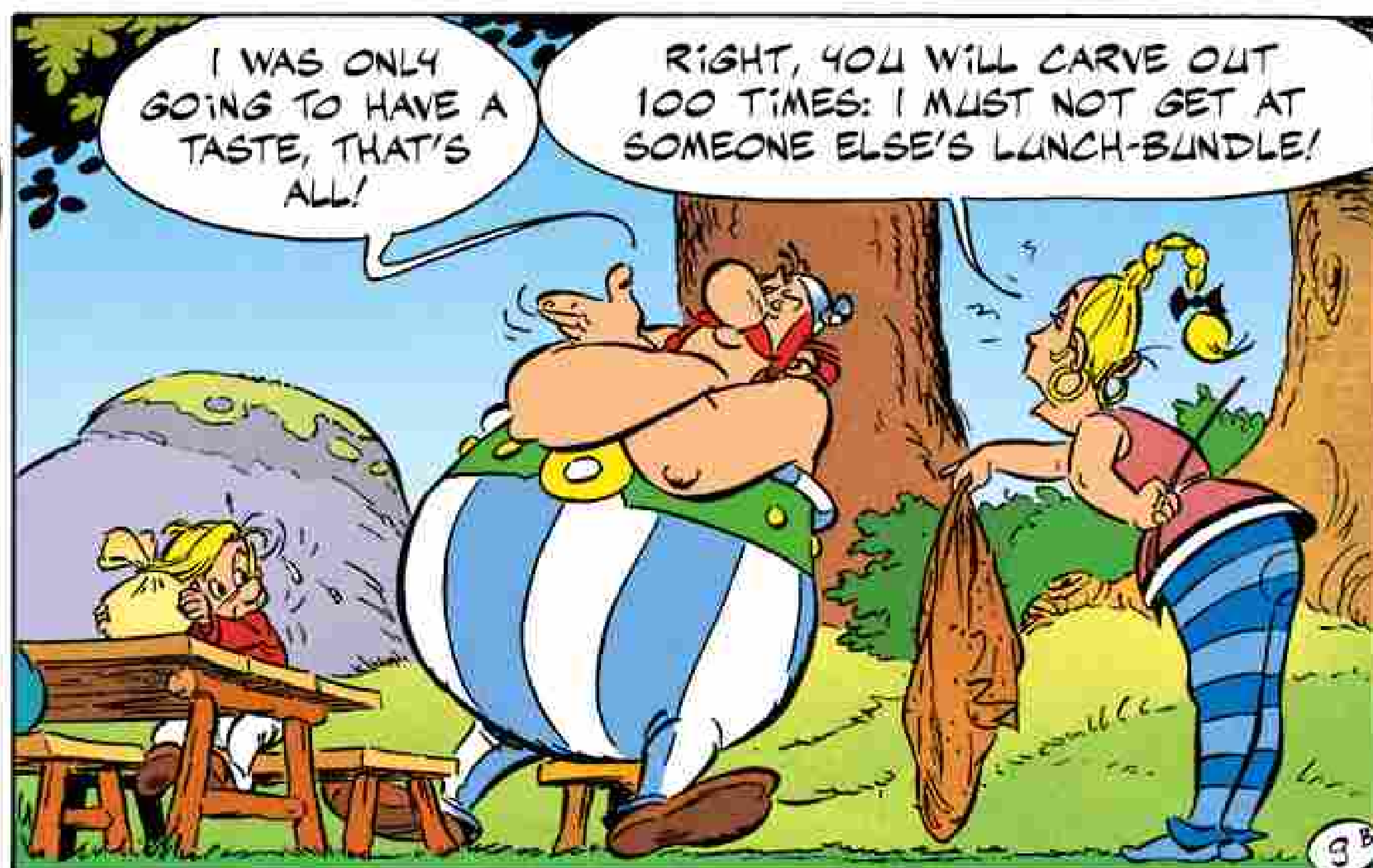
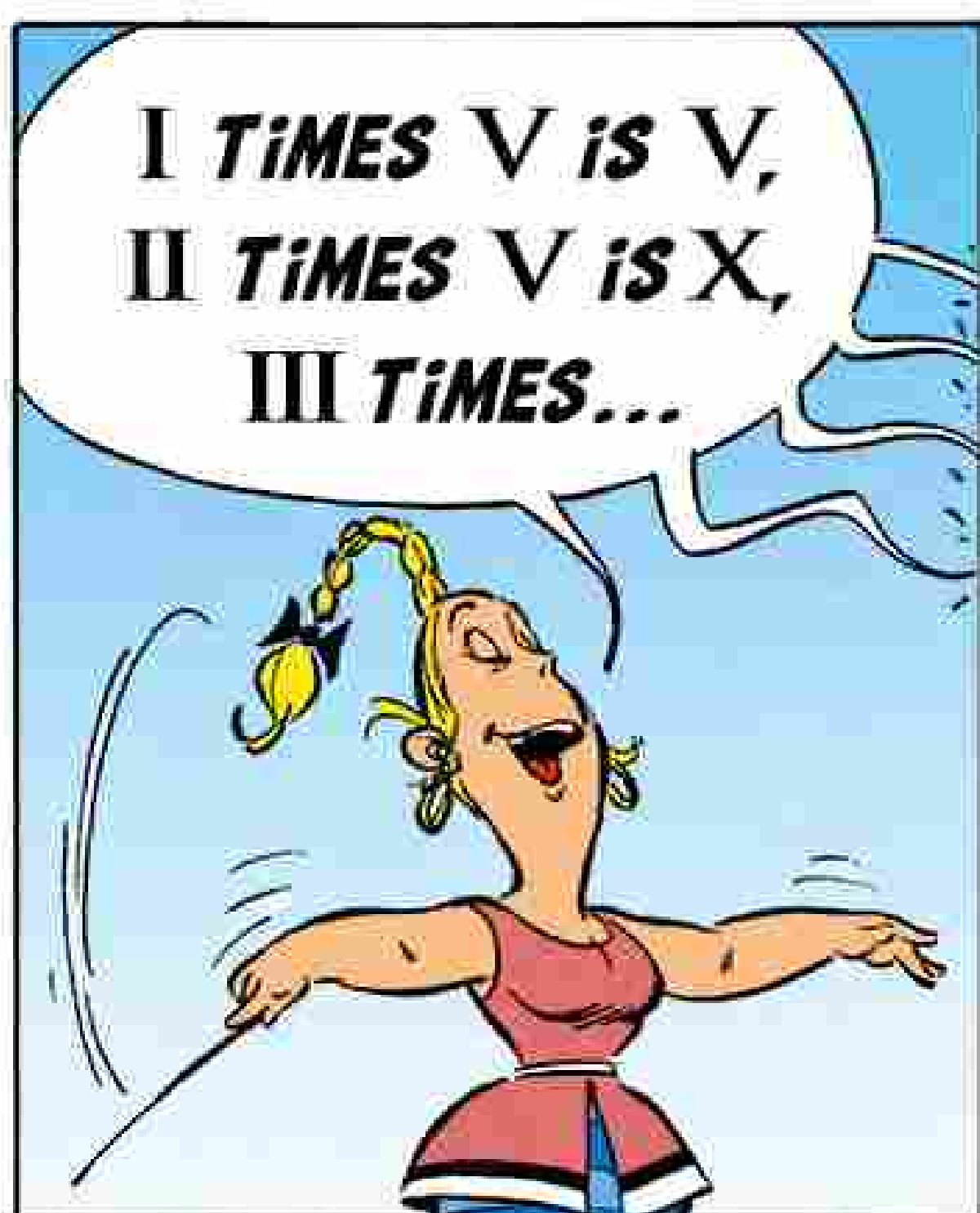
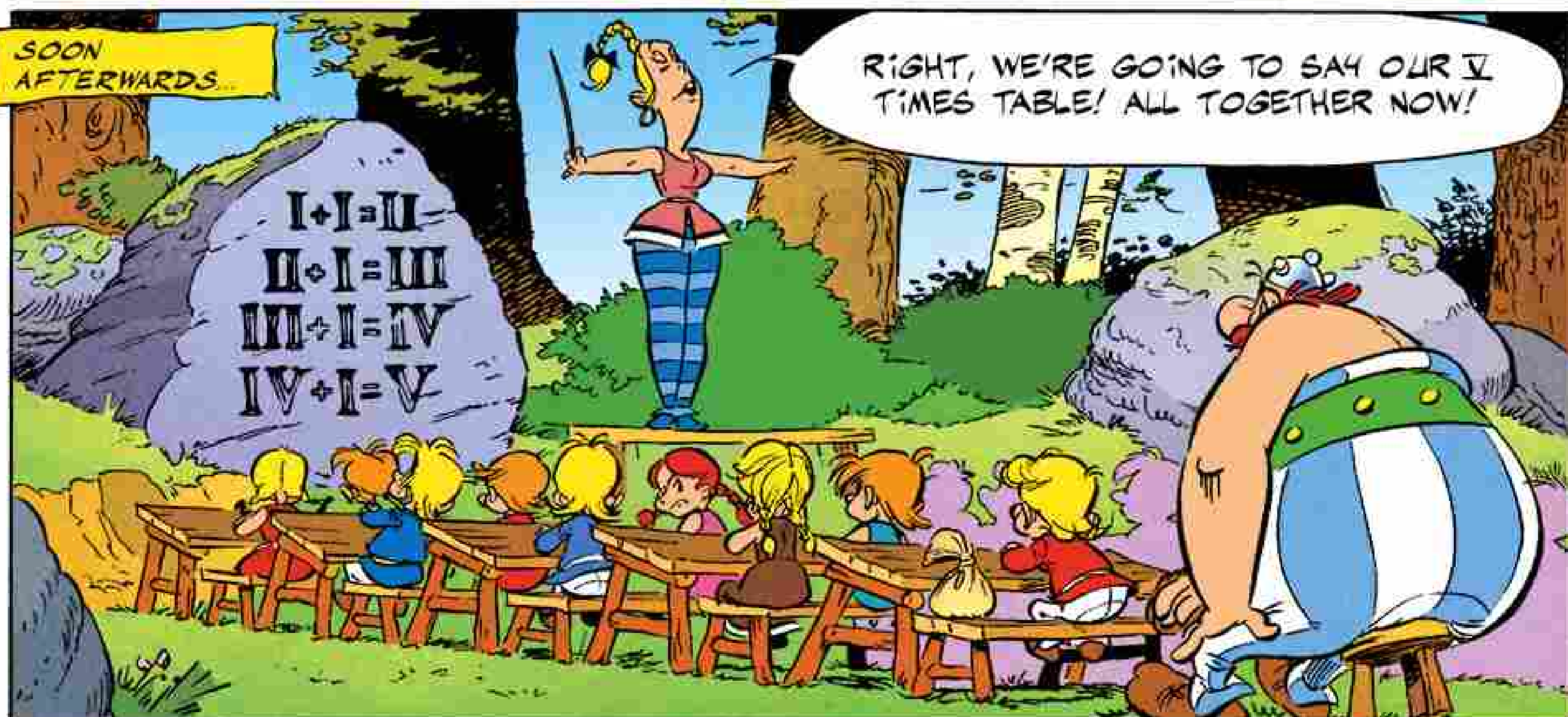
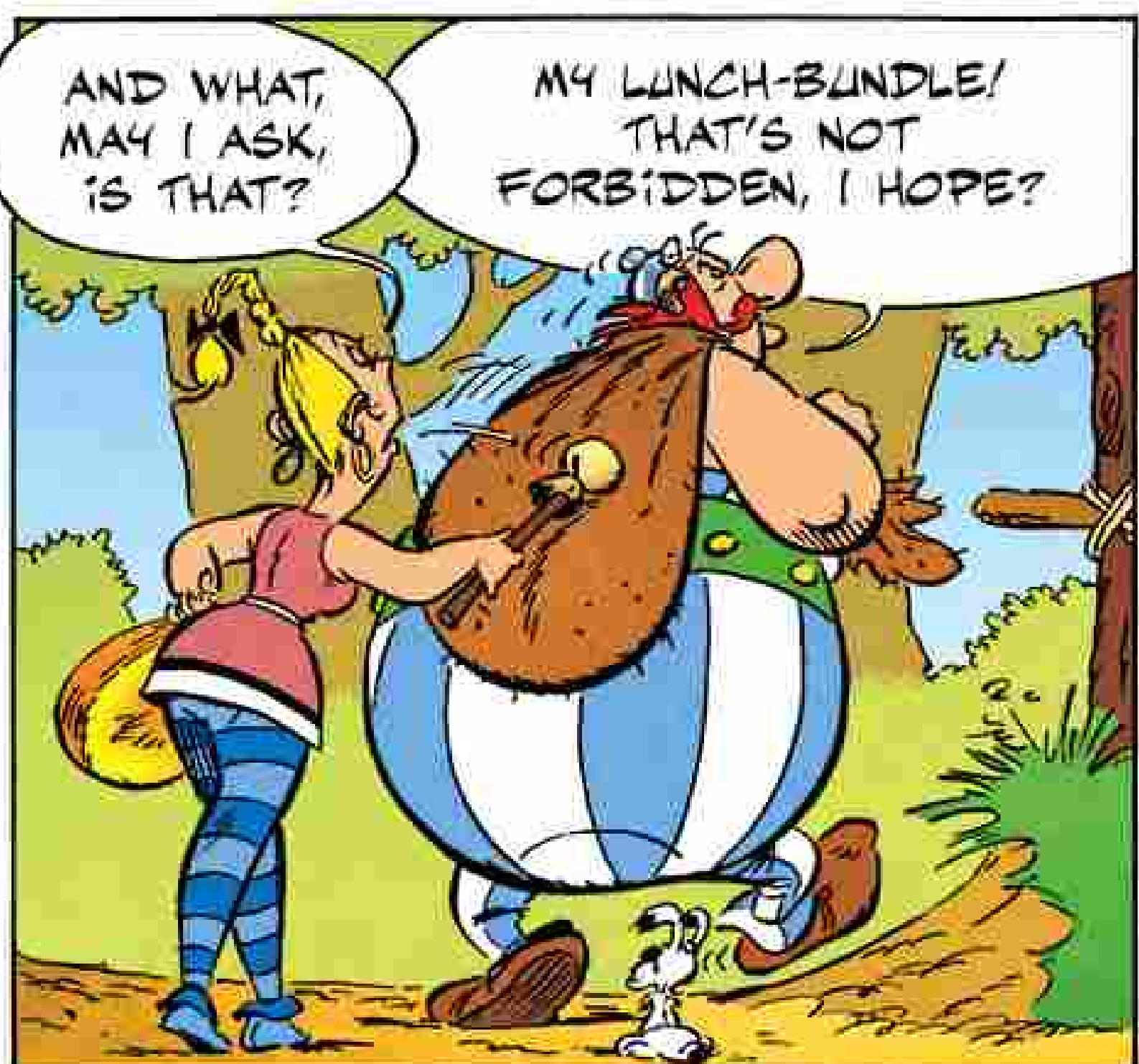
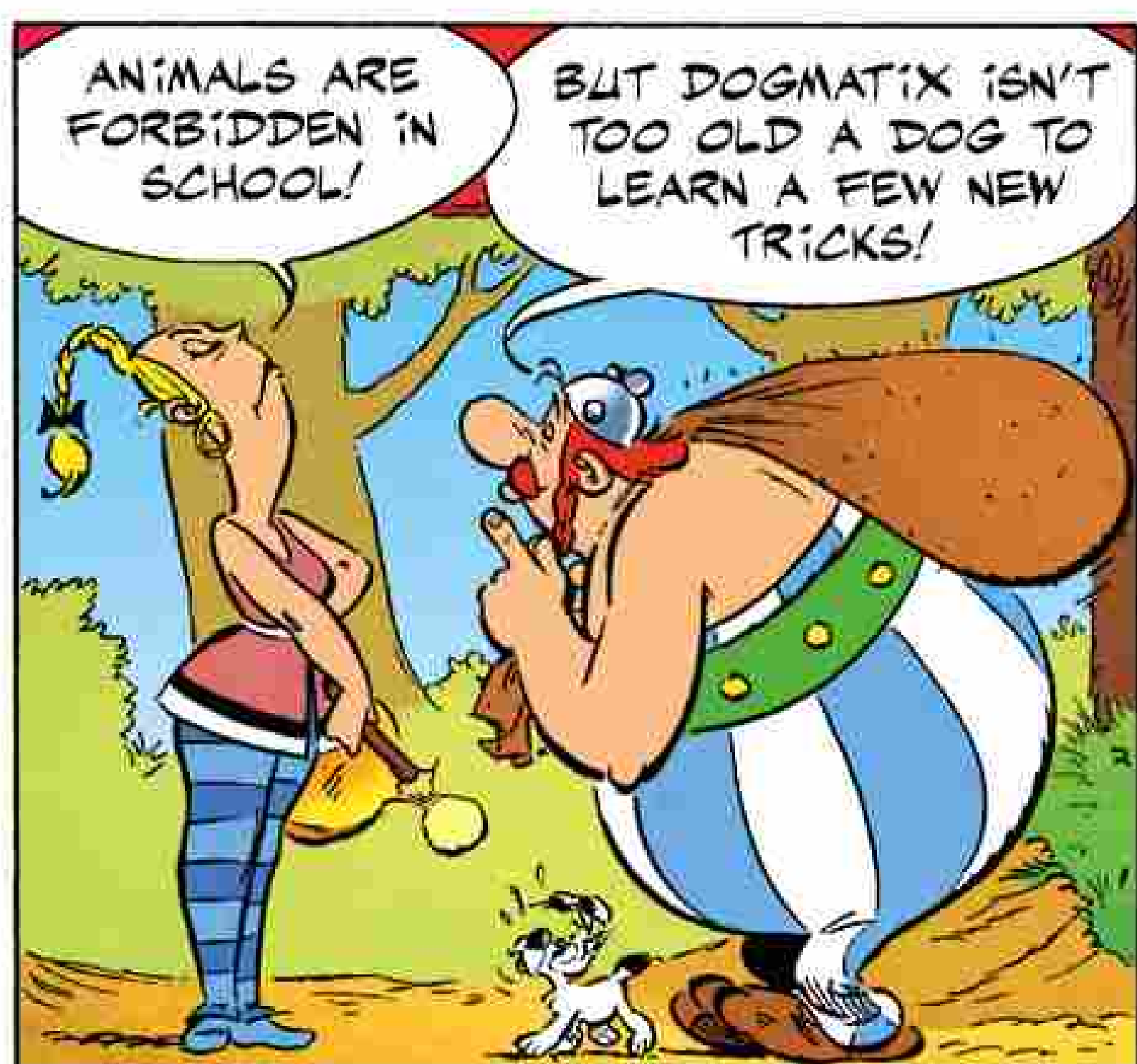
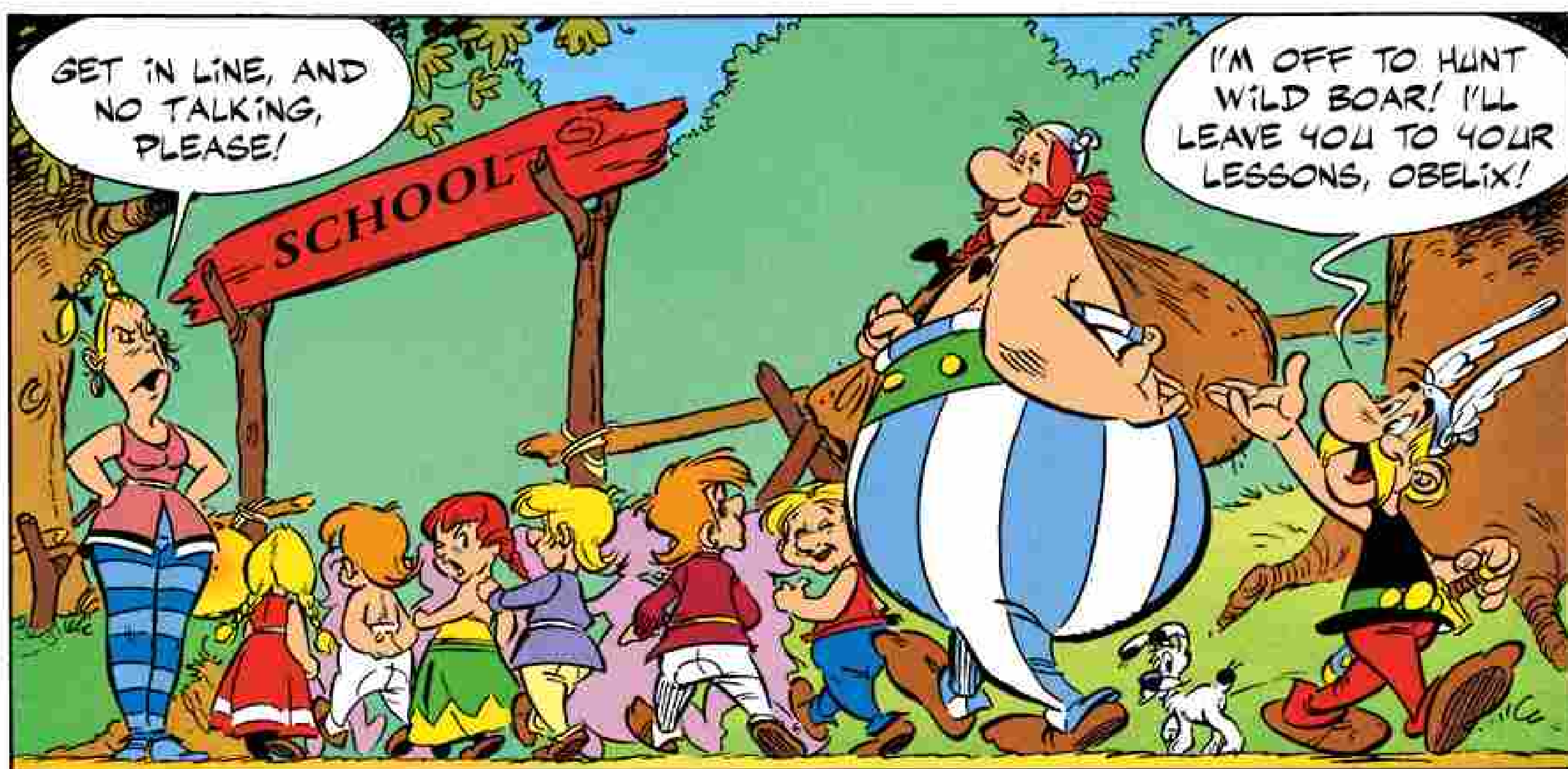


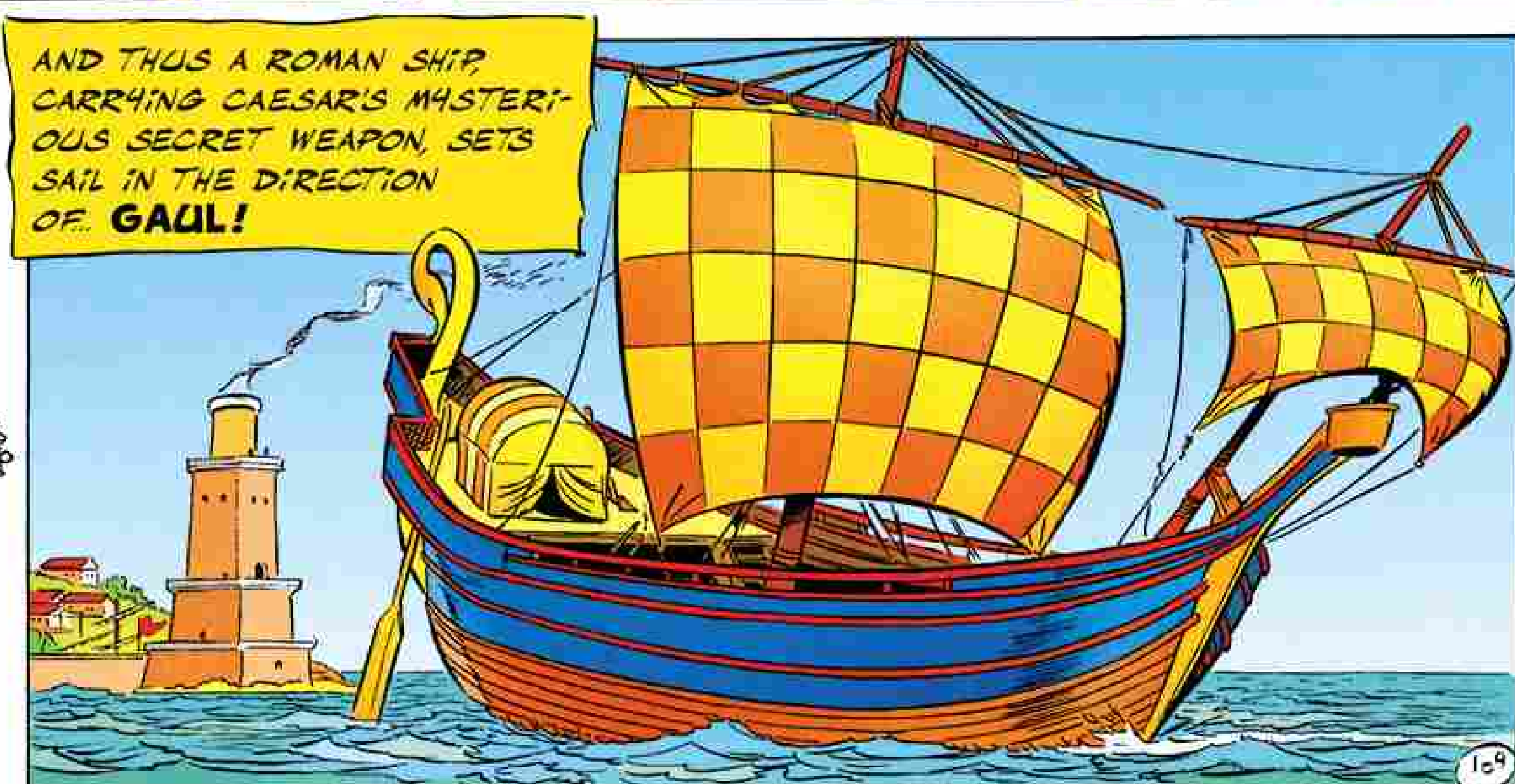
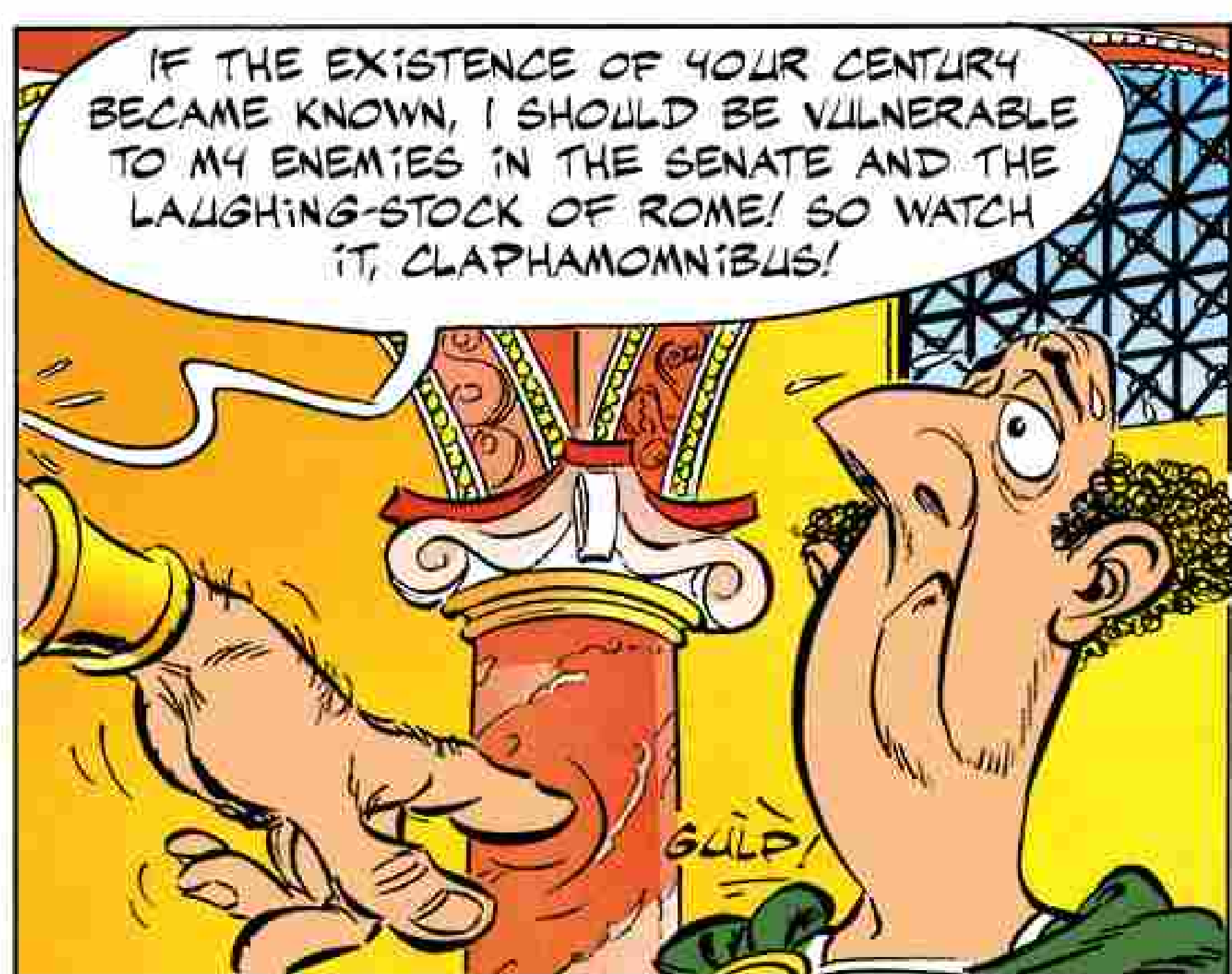
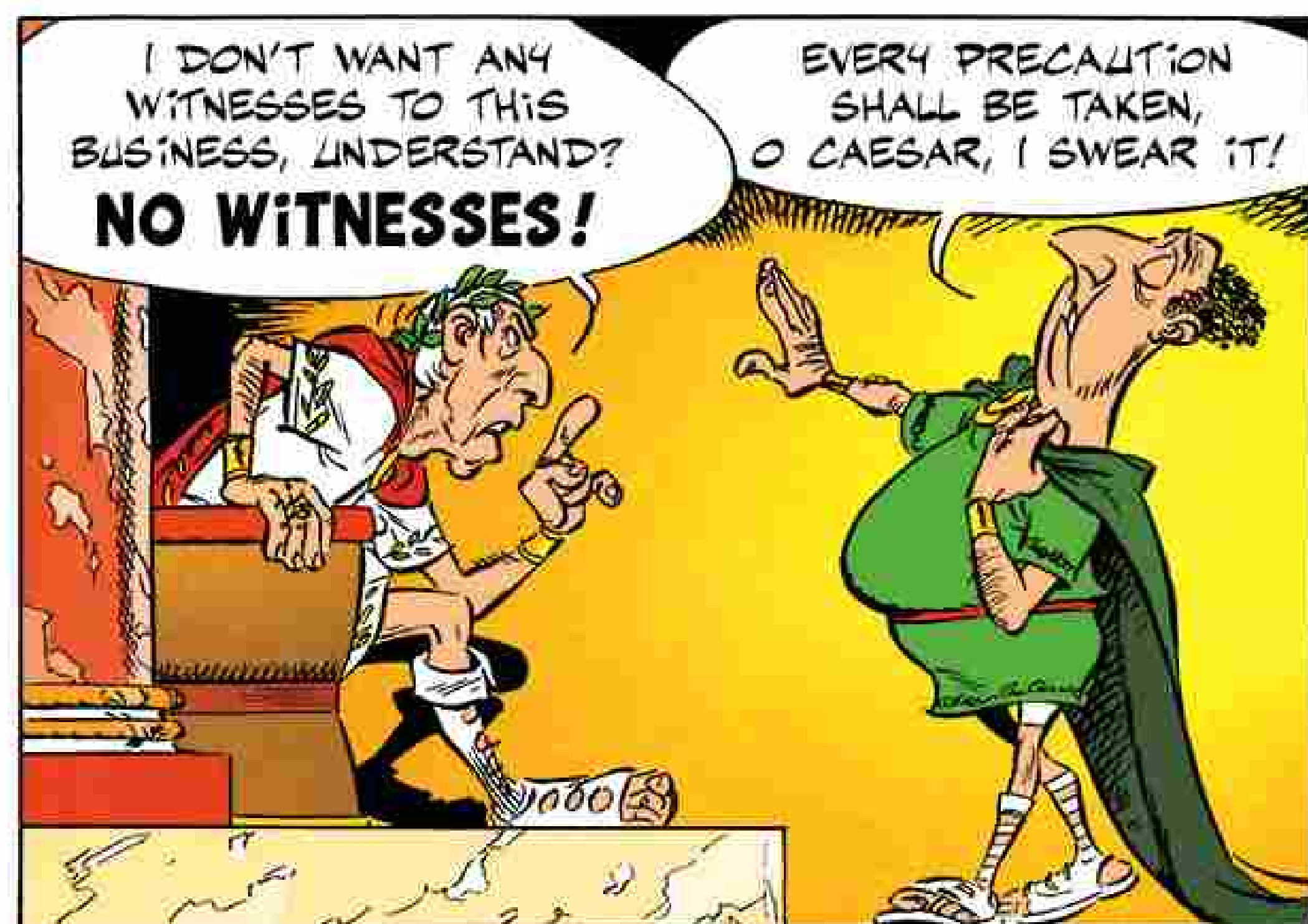
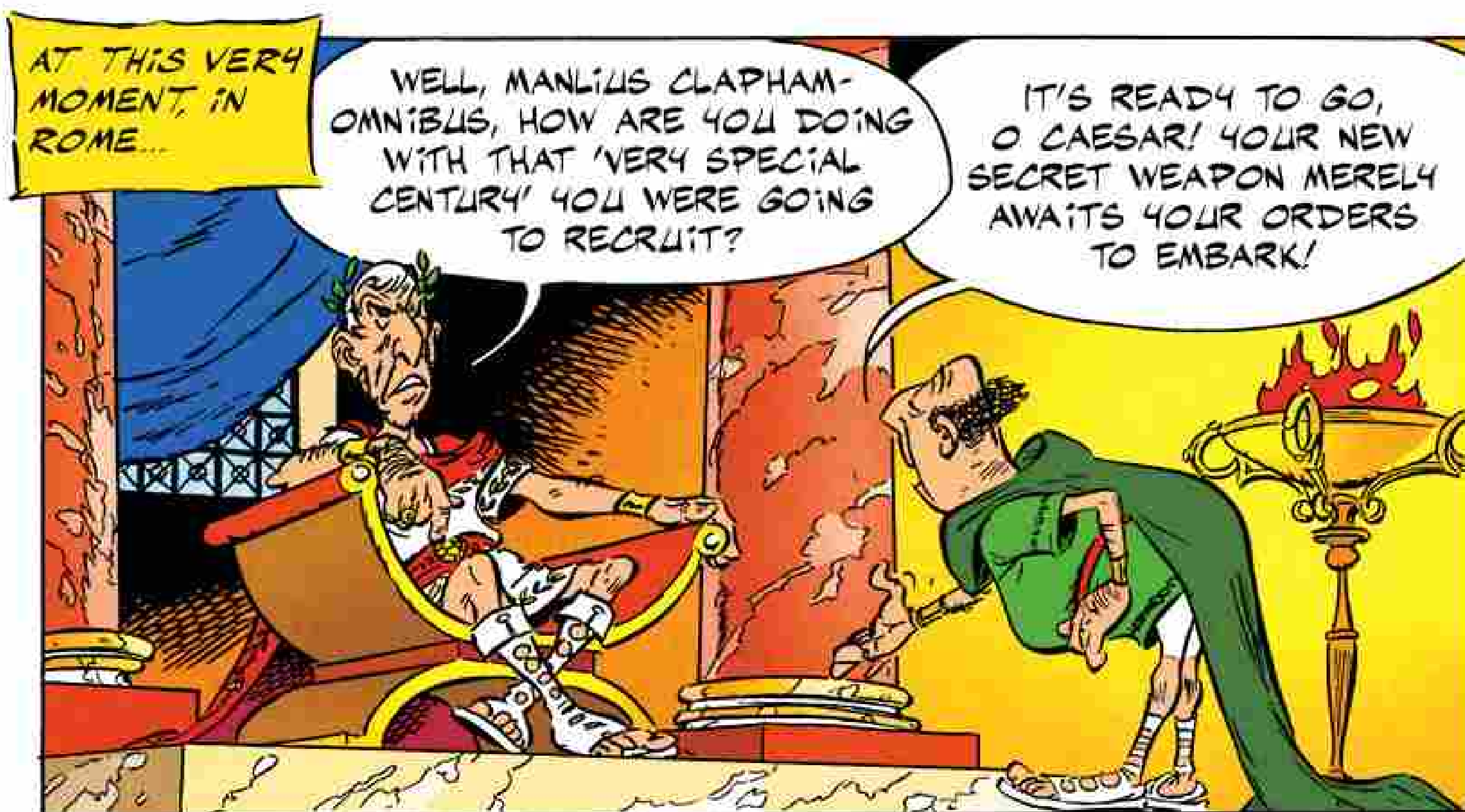
NIGHT BRINGS THE VILLAGE PEACE AND CALM...

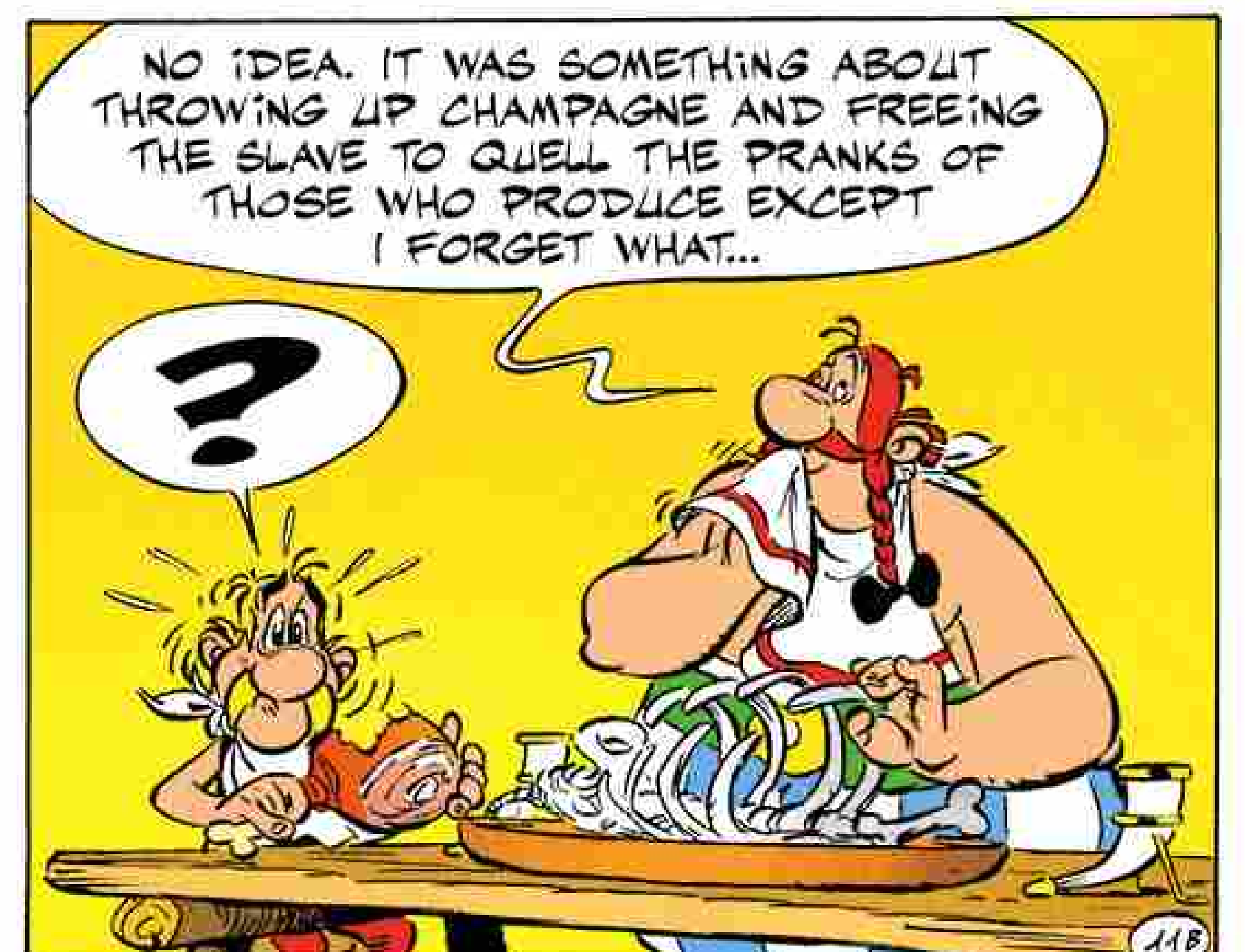
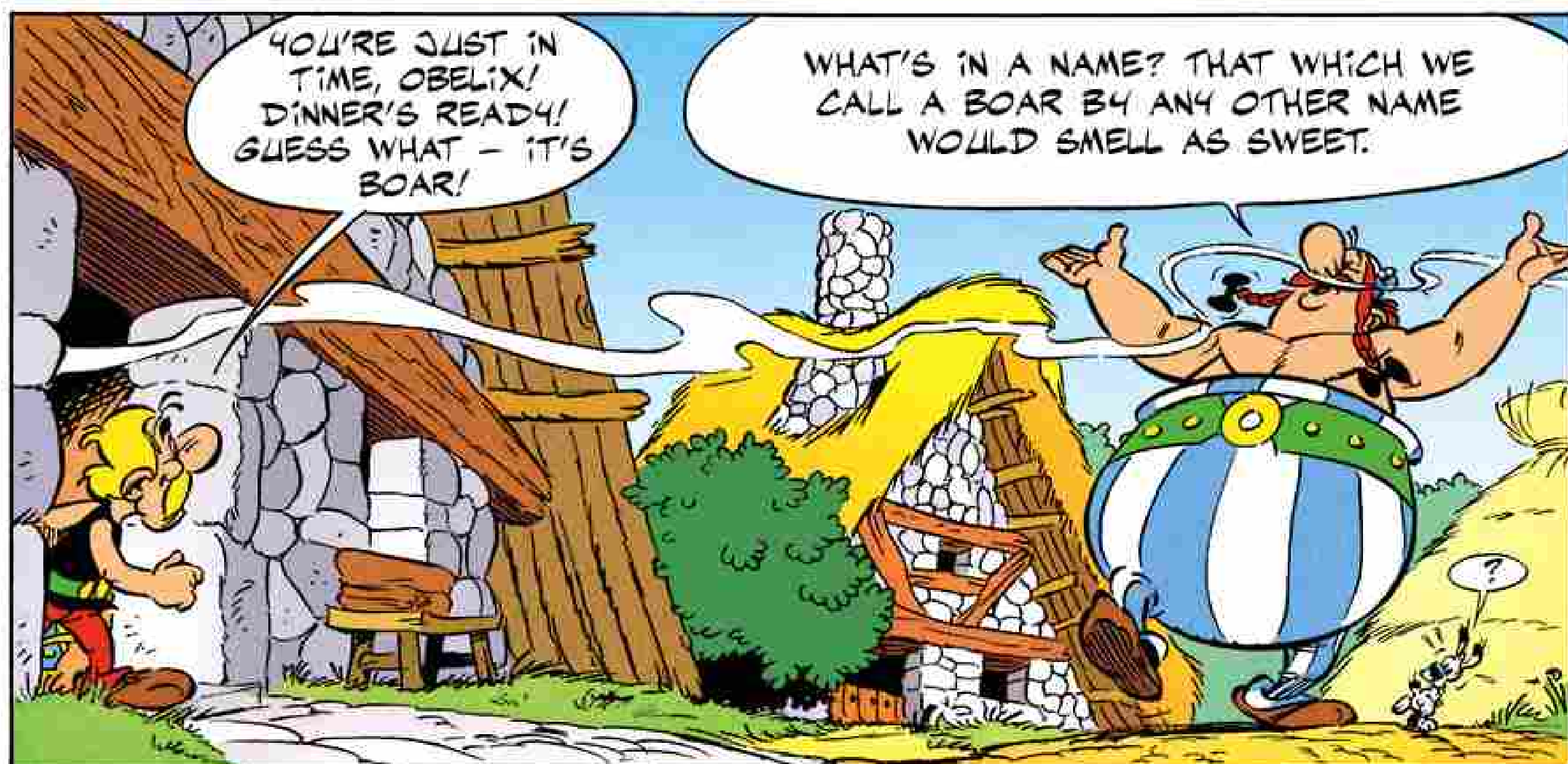
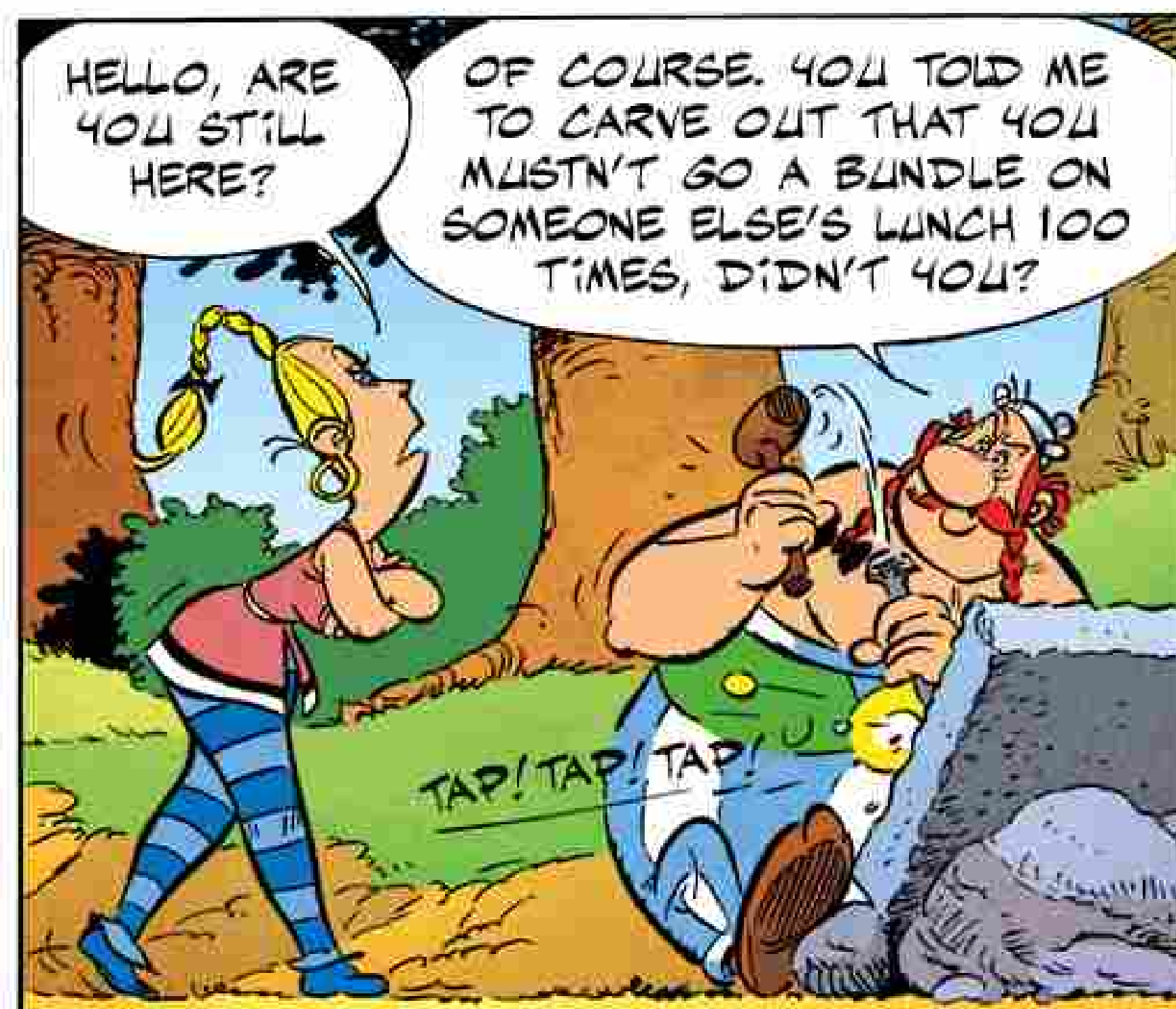


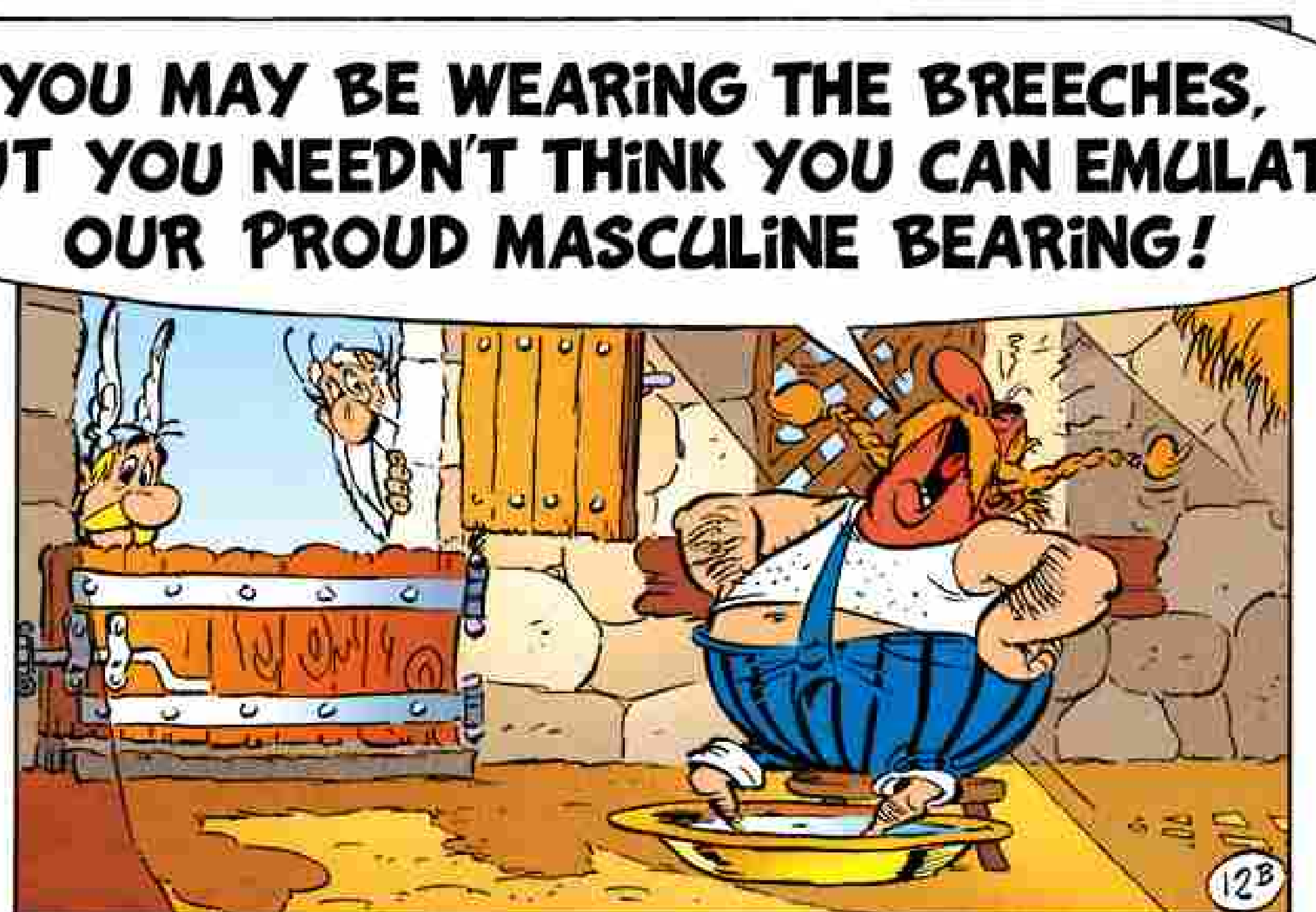
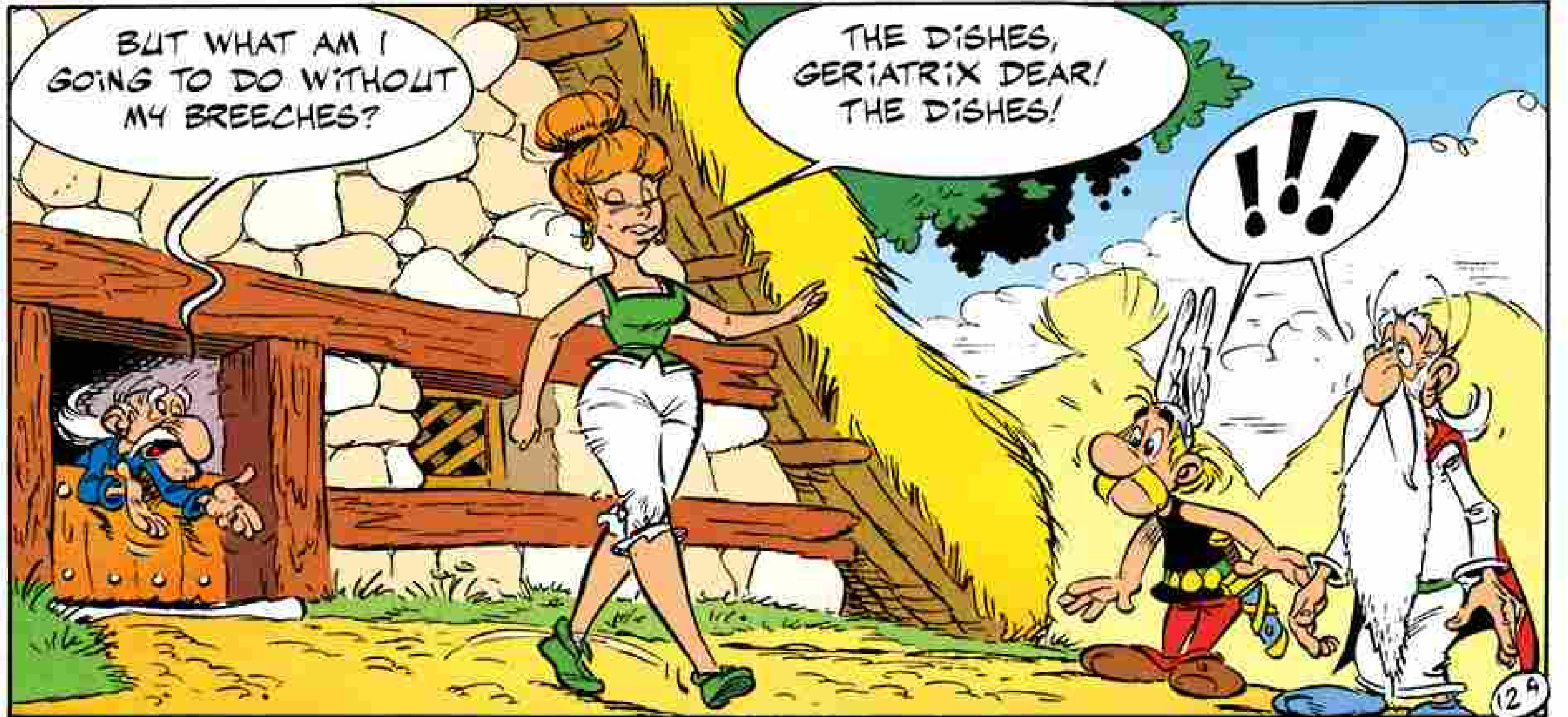
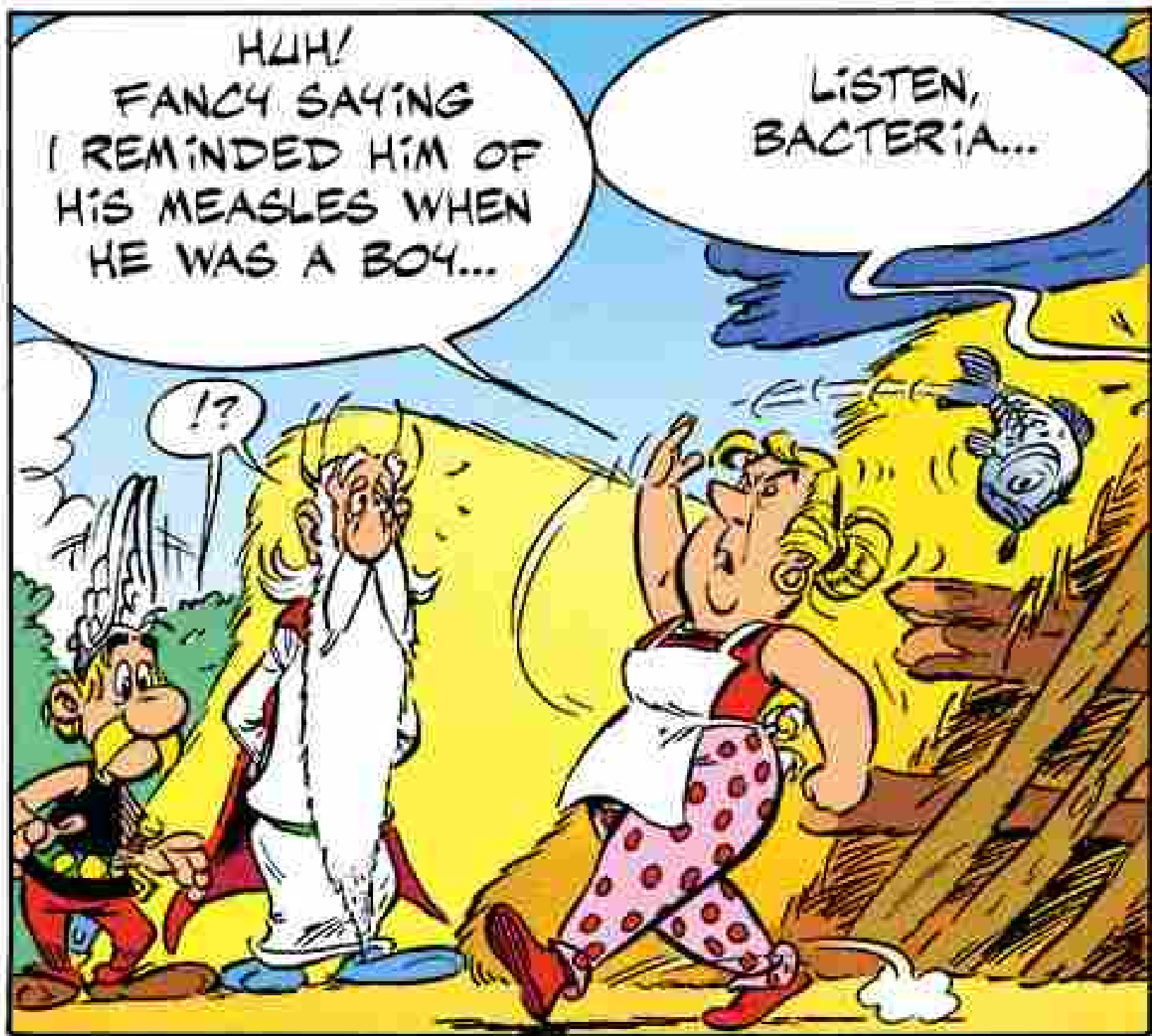
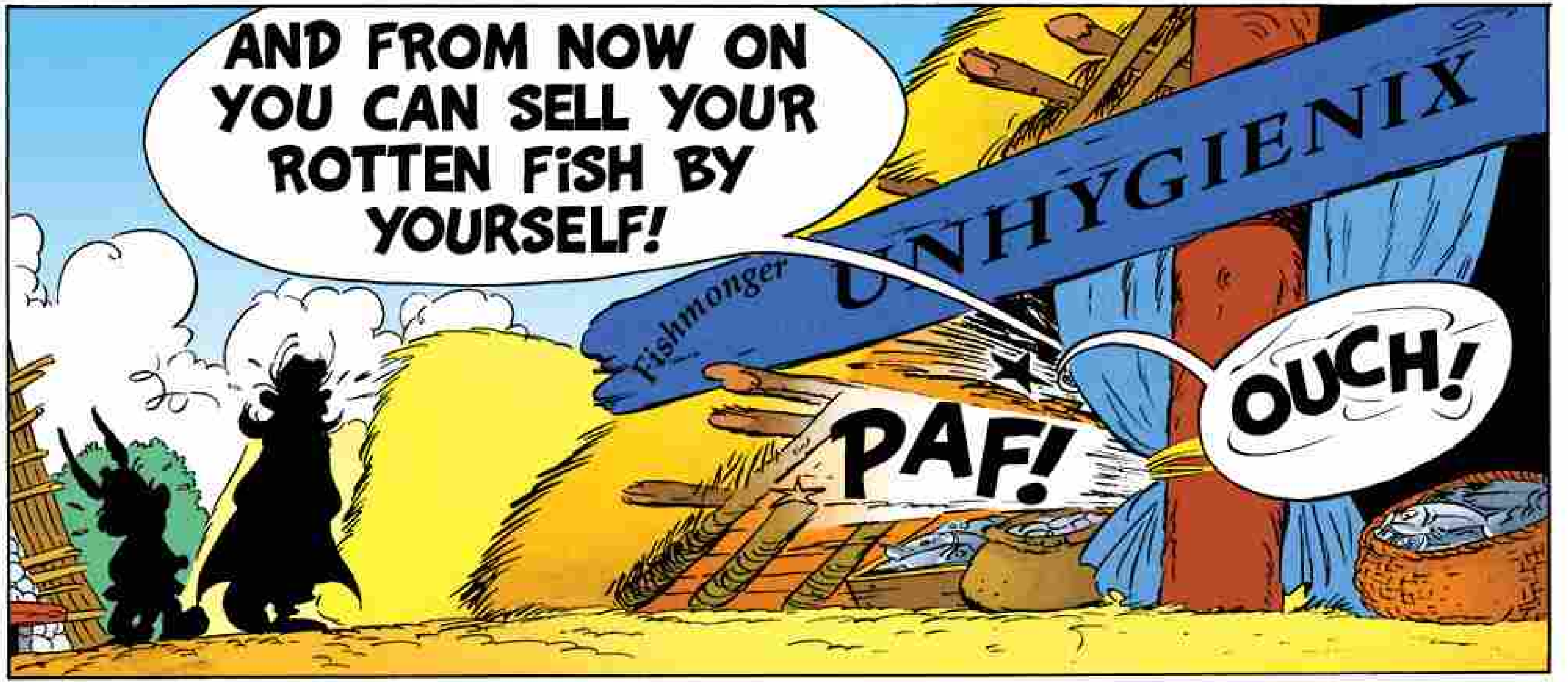
...BROKEN ONLY BY THE SNORING OF THE VILLAGE COCKEREL, WHOSE ADENOIDS ARE STILL GIVING HIM TROUBLE.

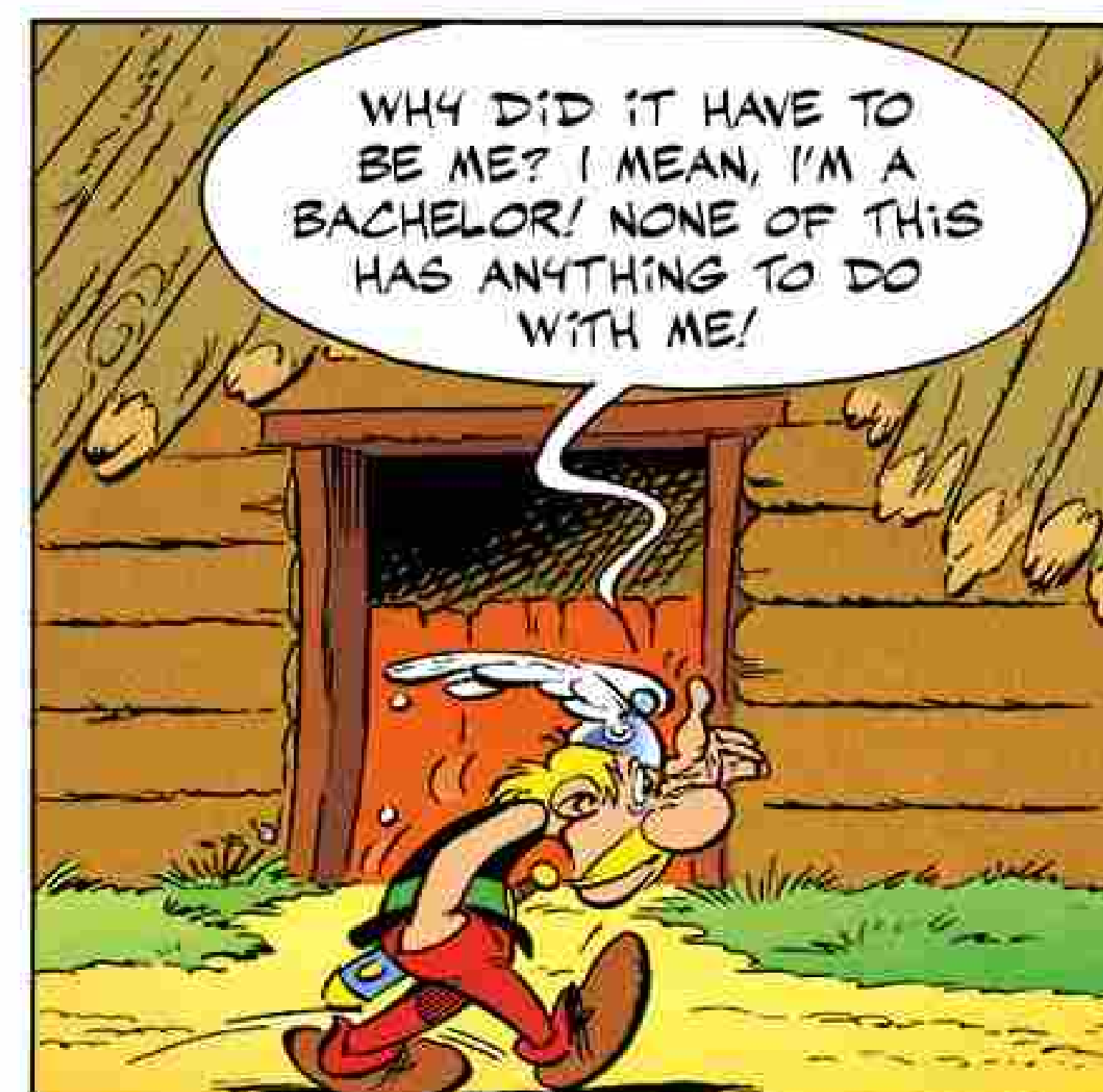
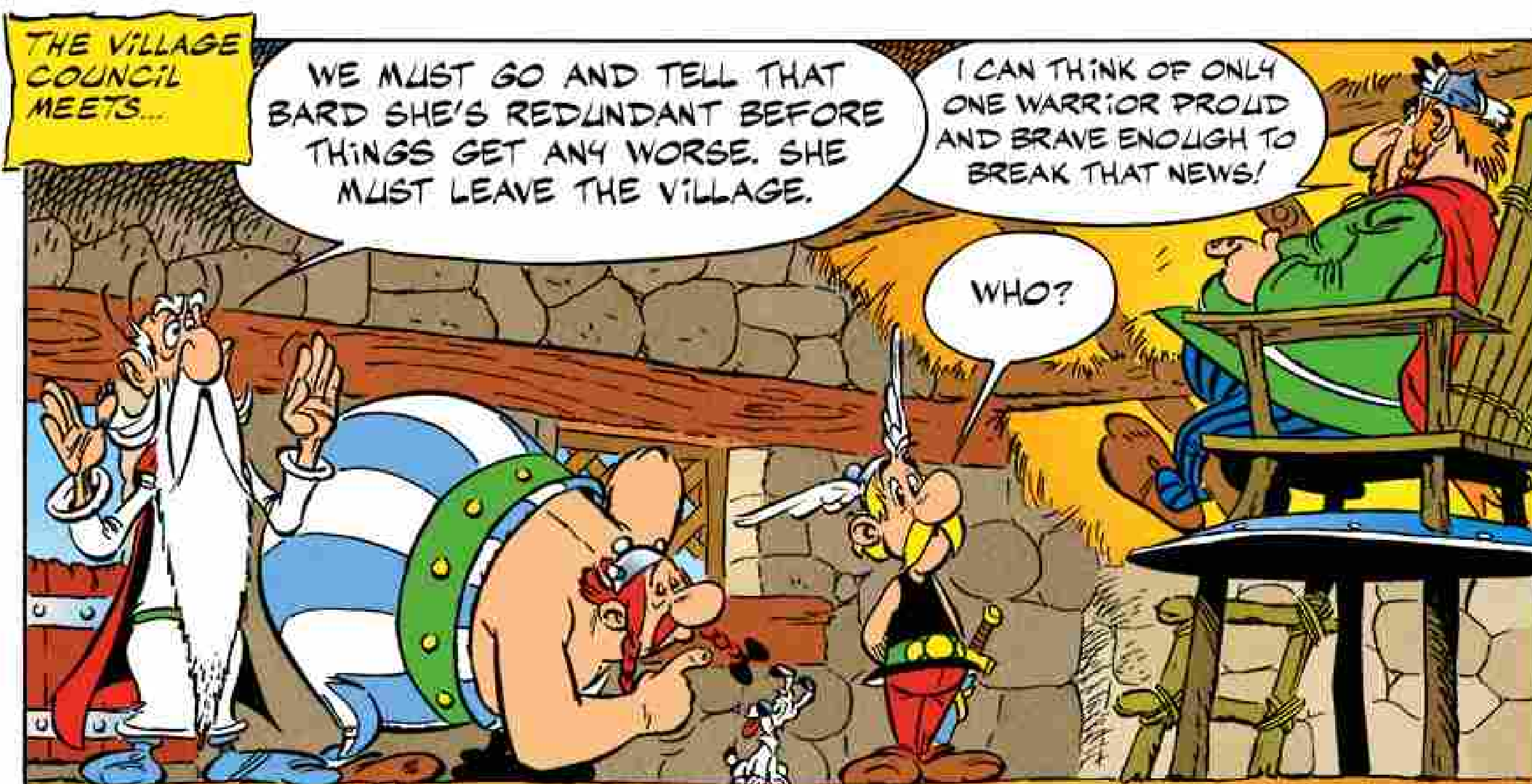


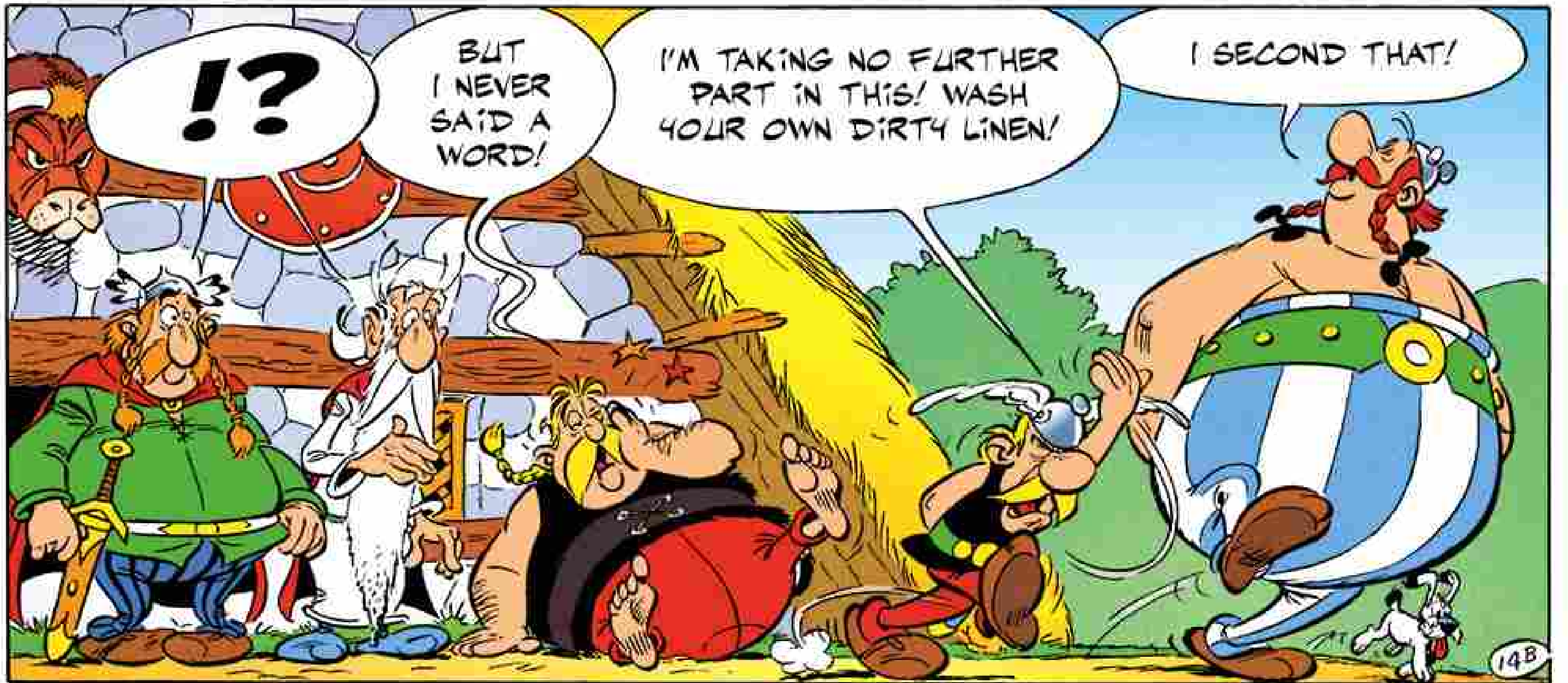
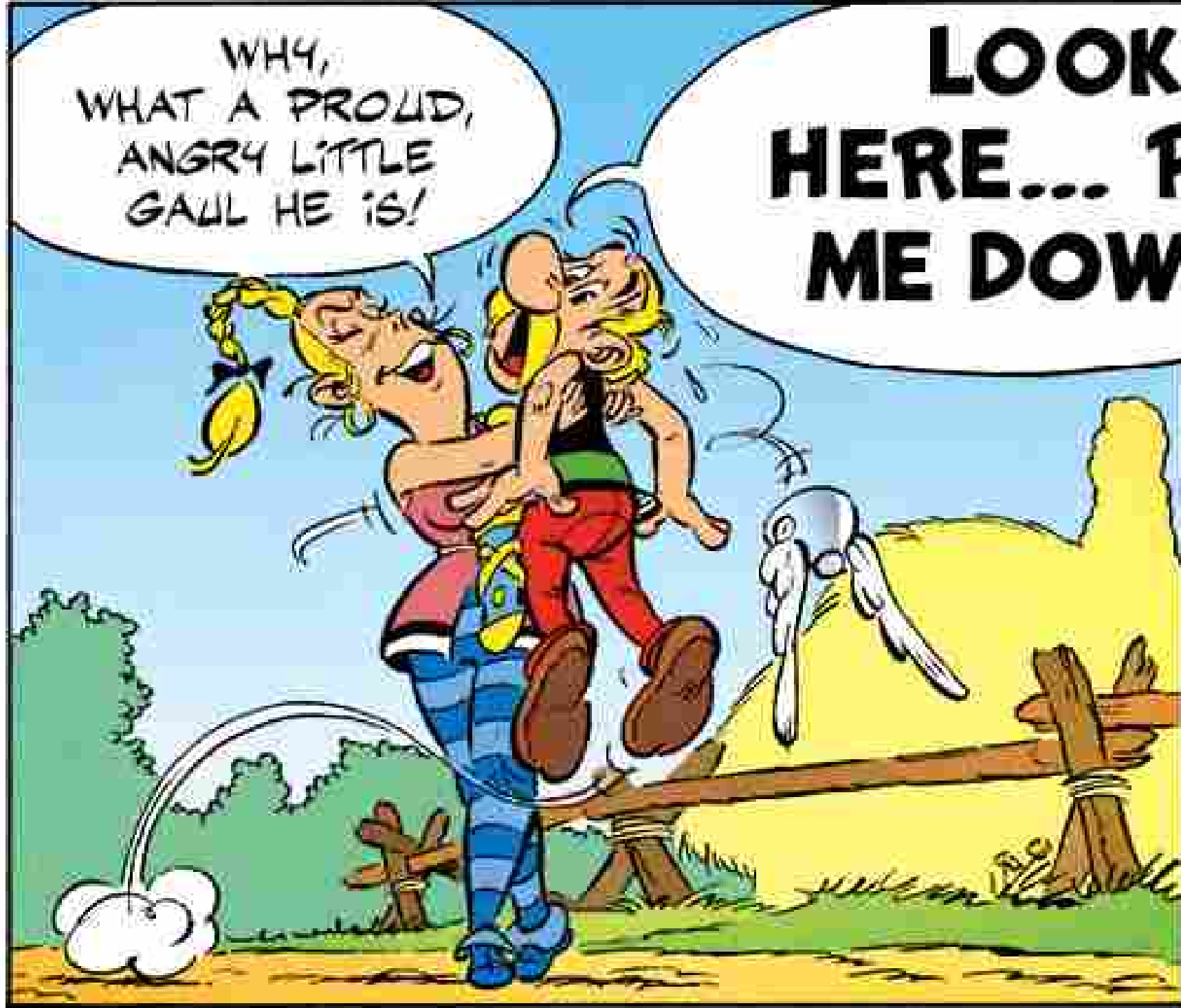
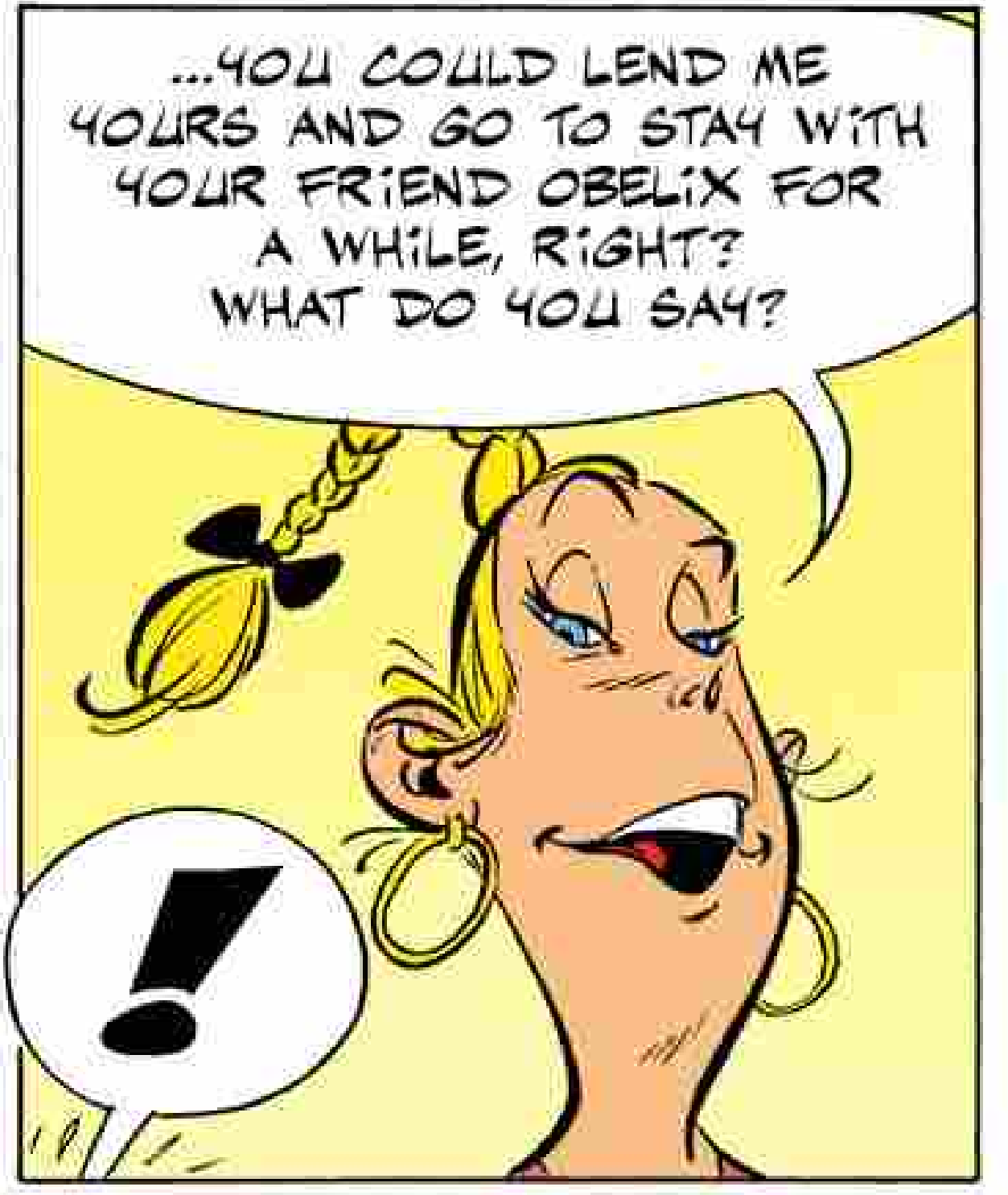
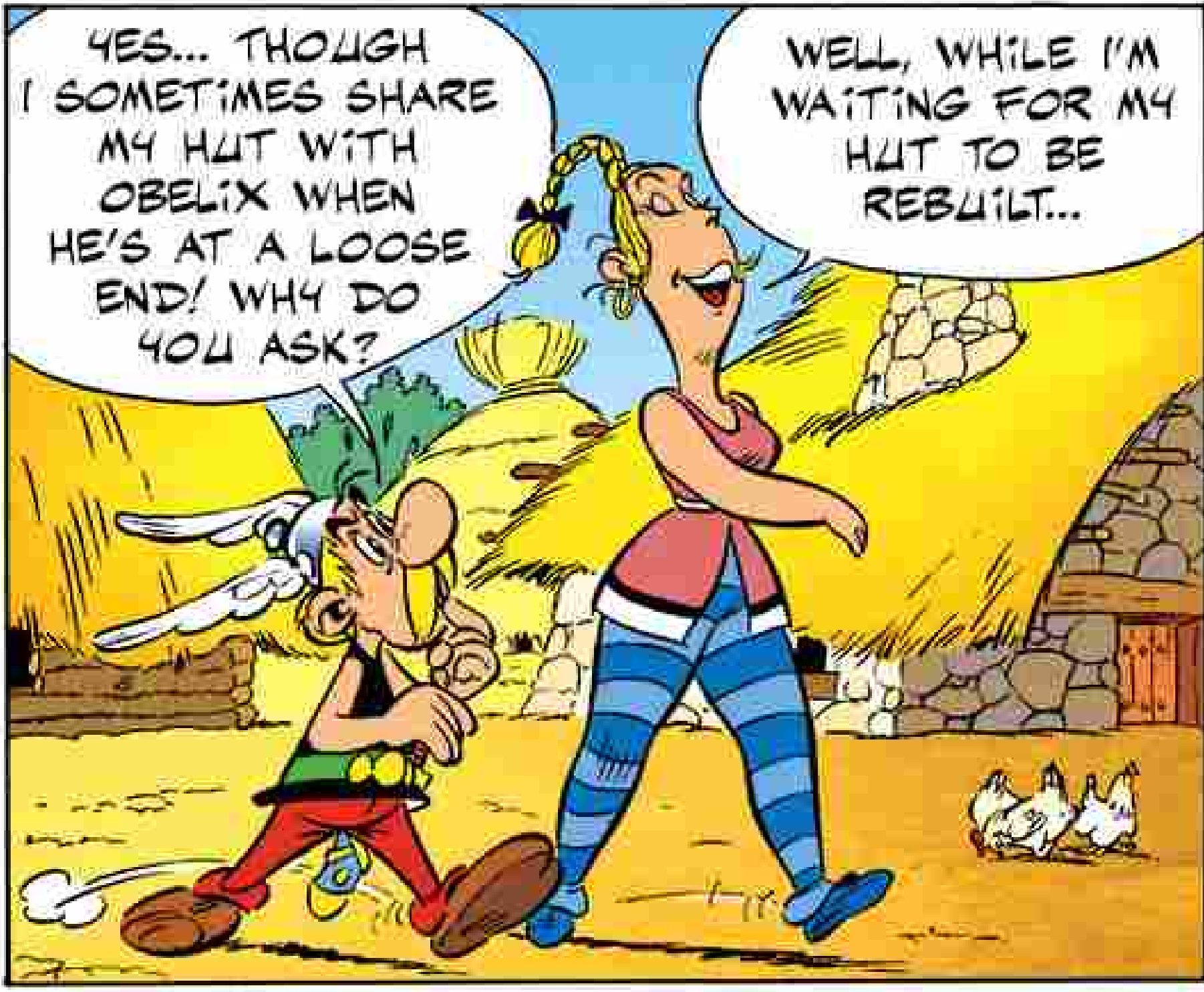
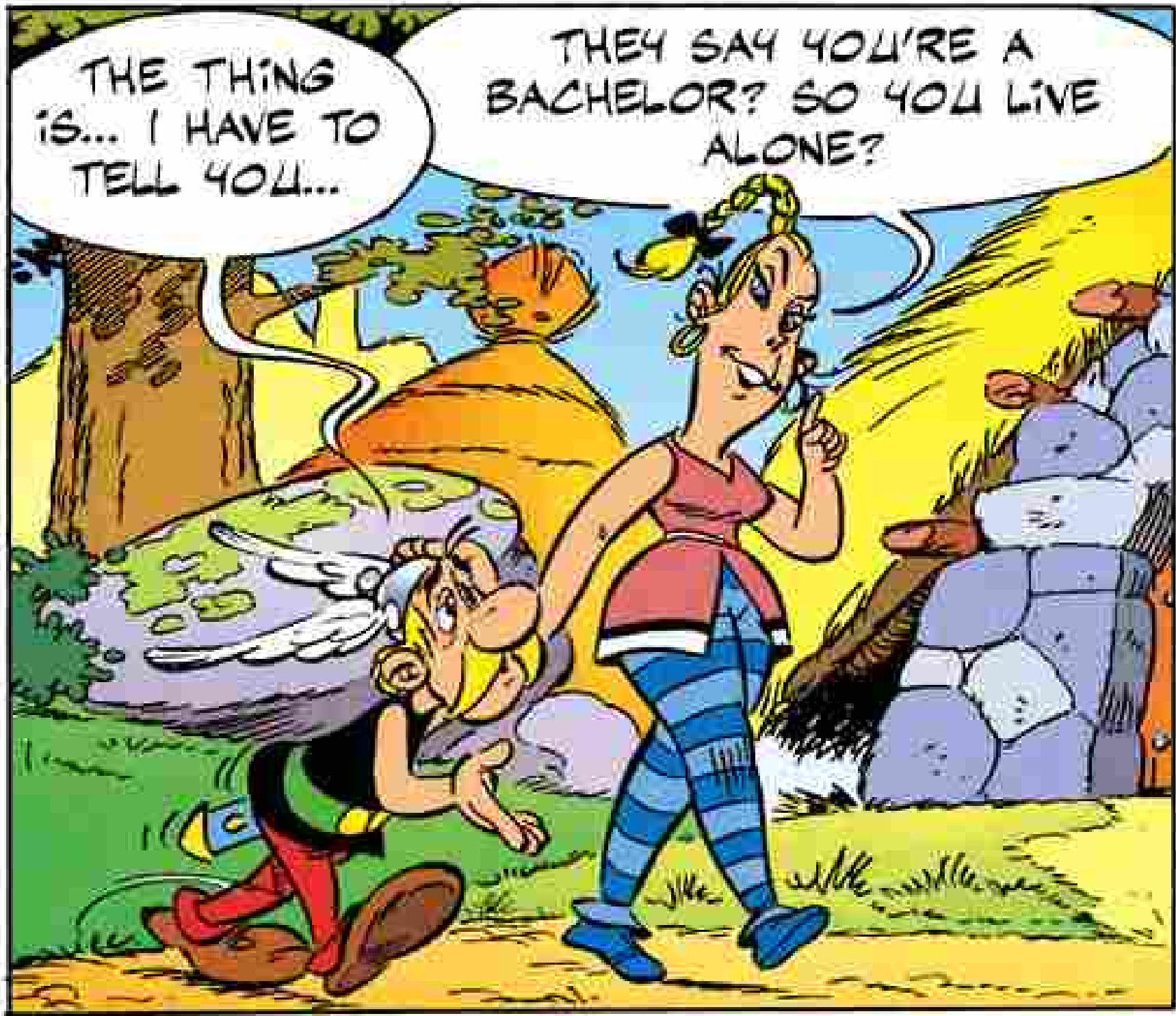








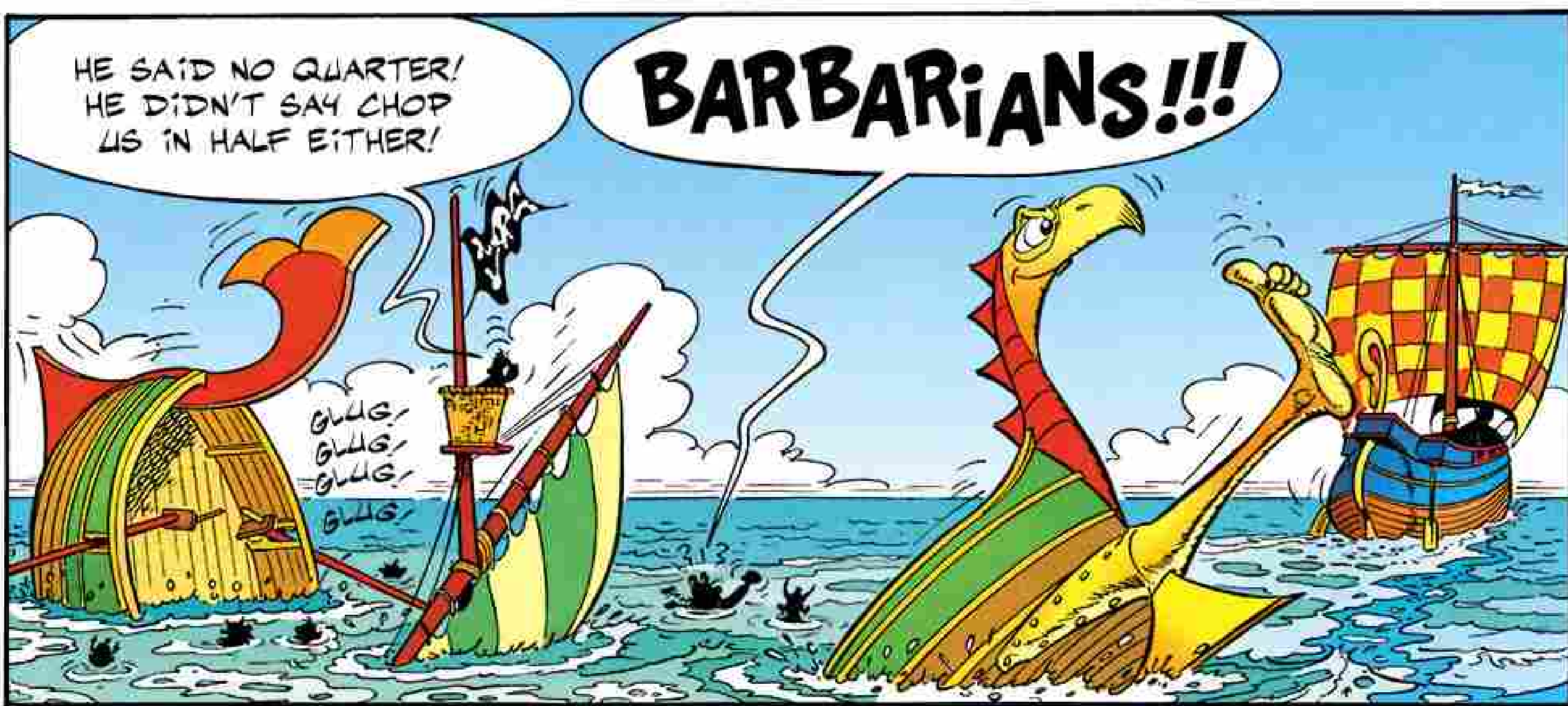
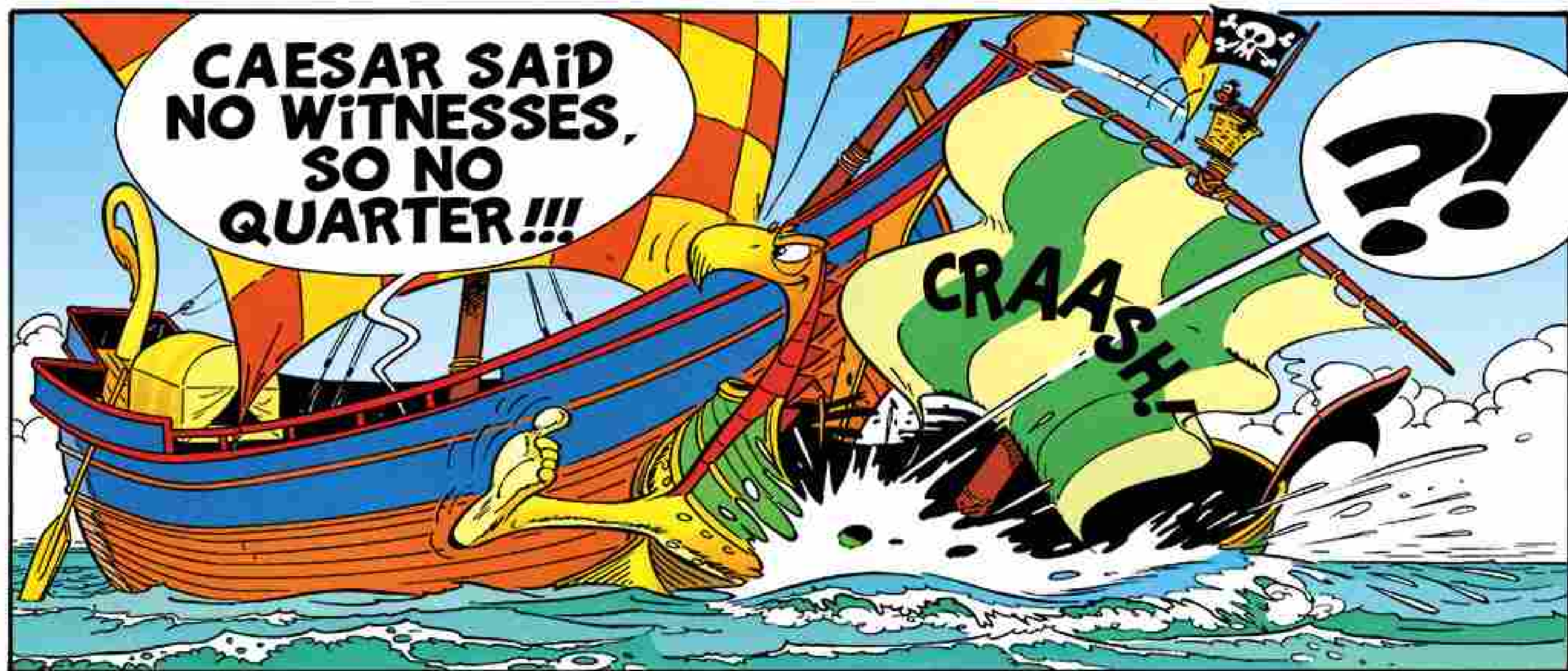


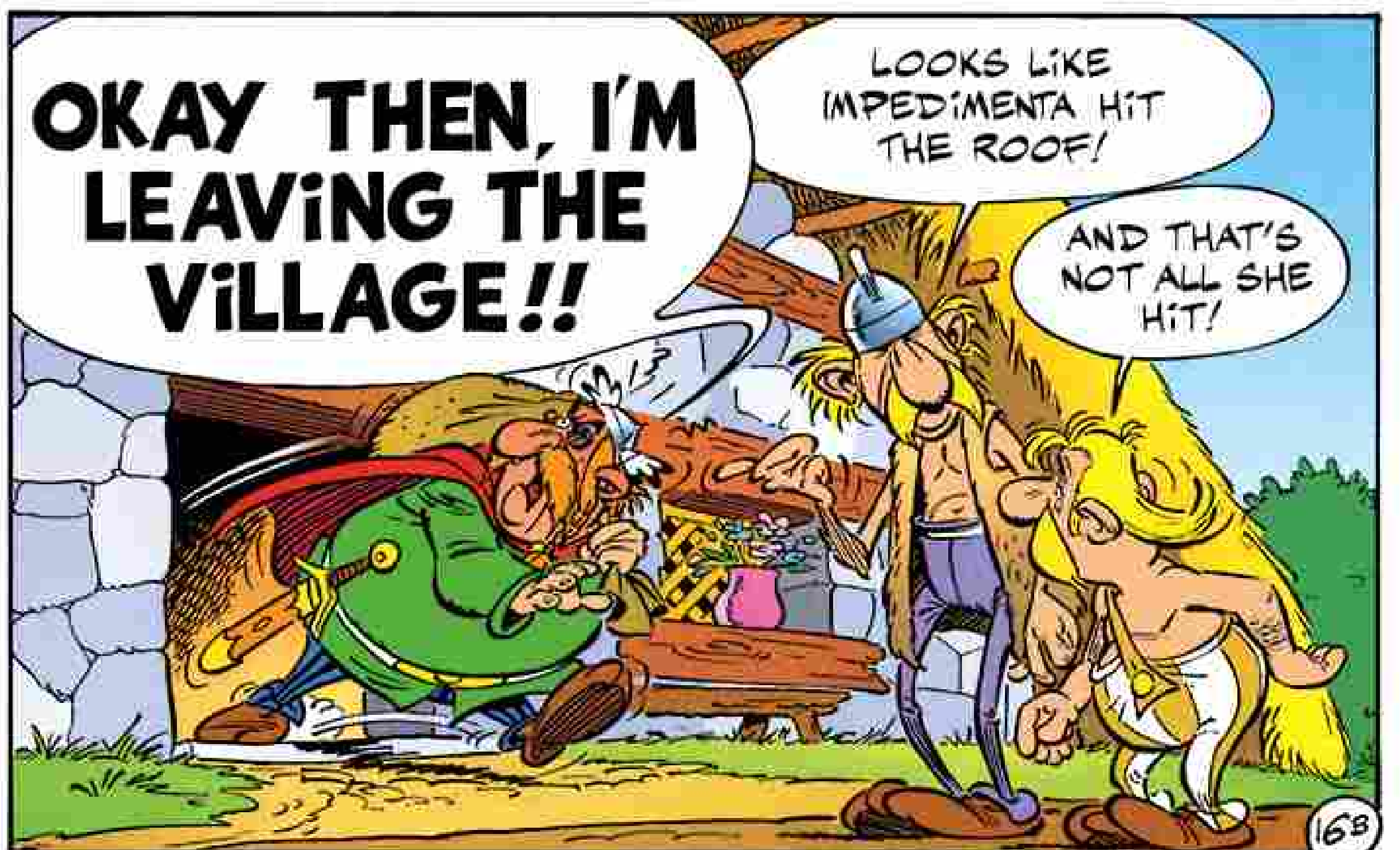
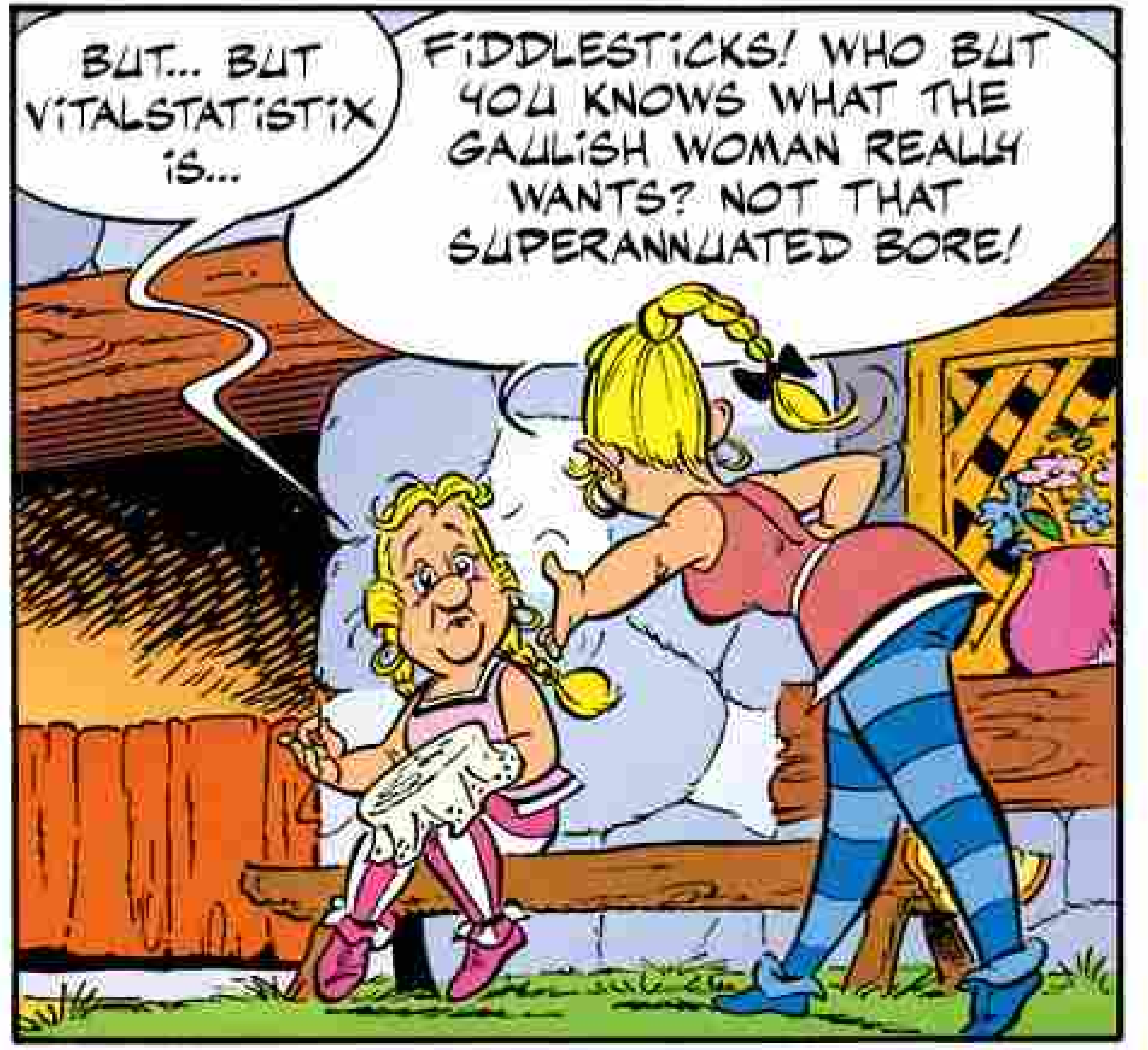
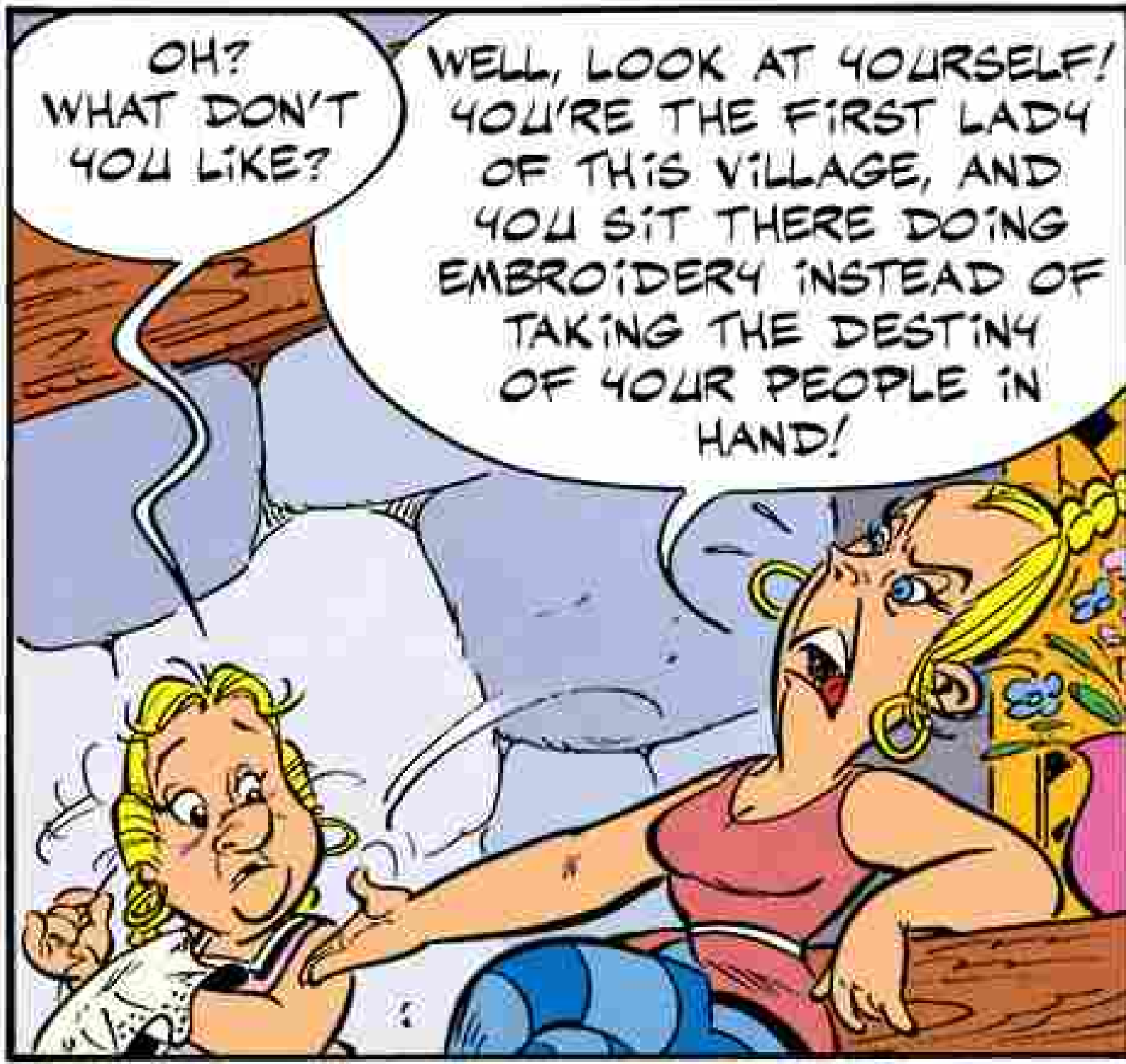
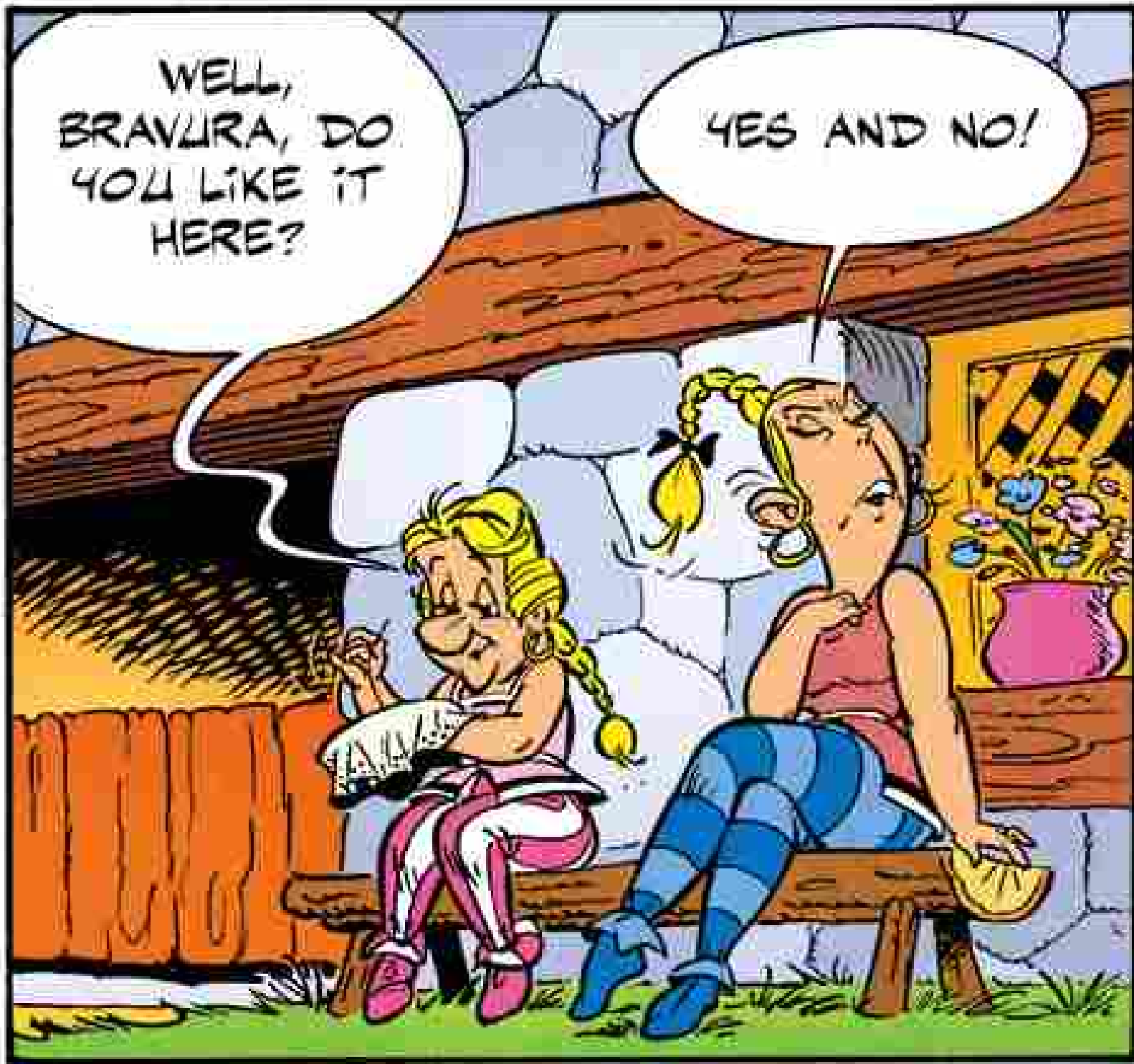


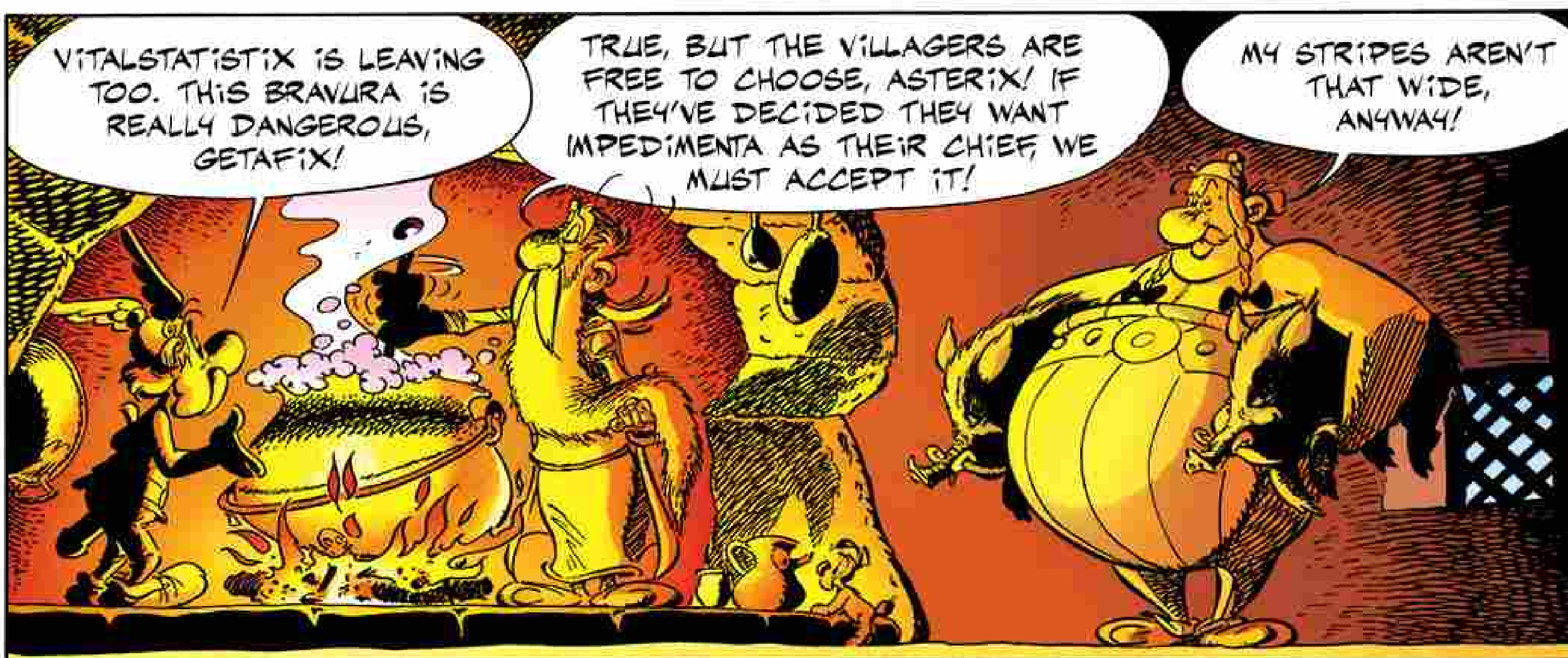
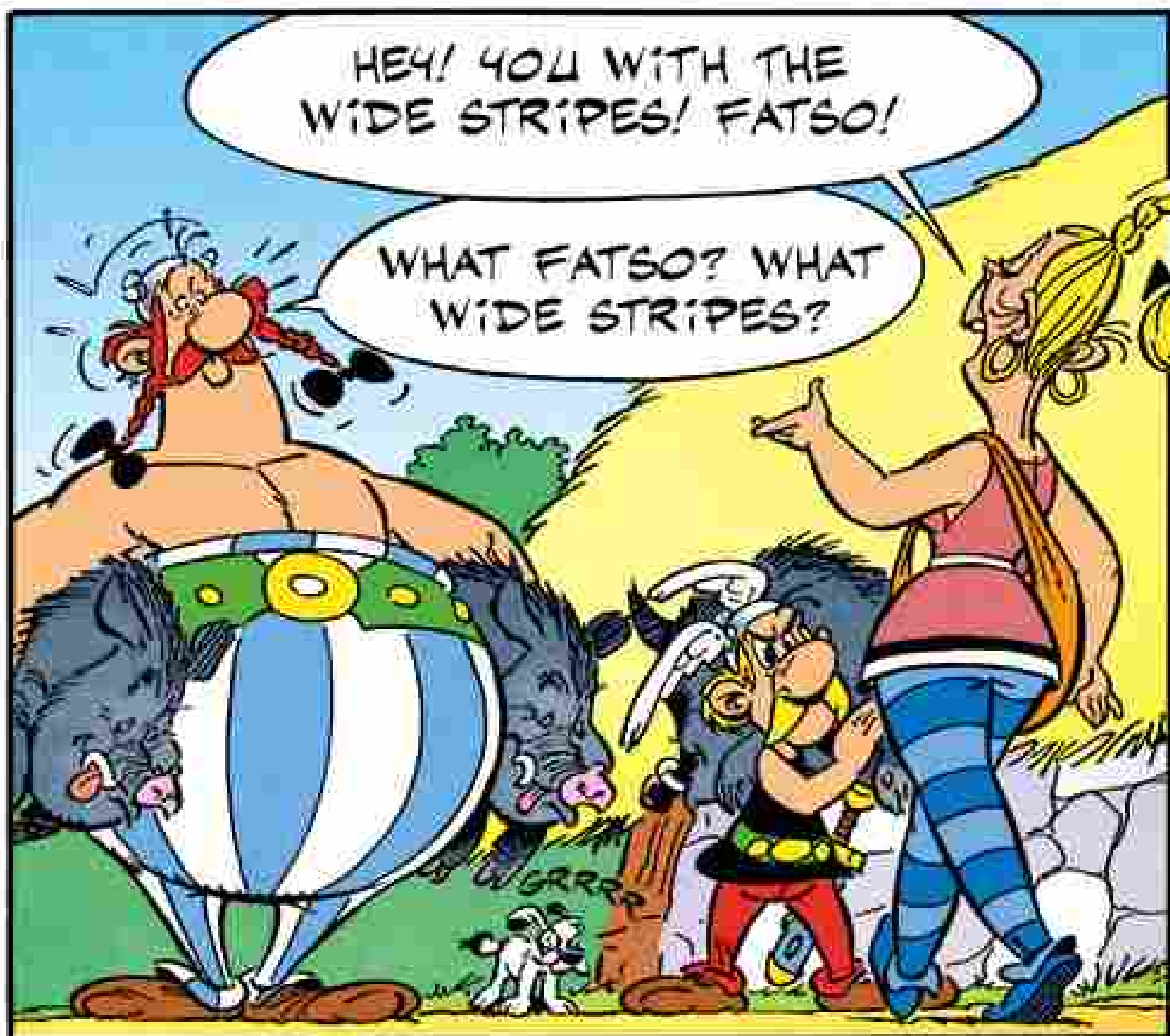
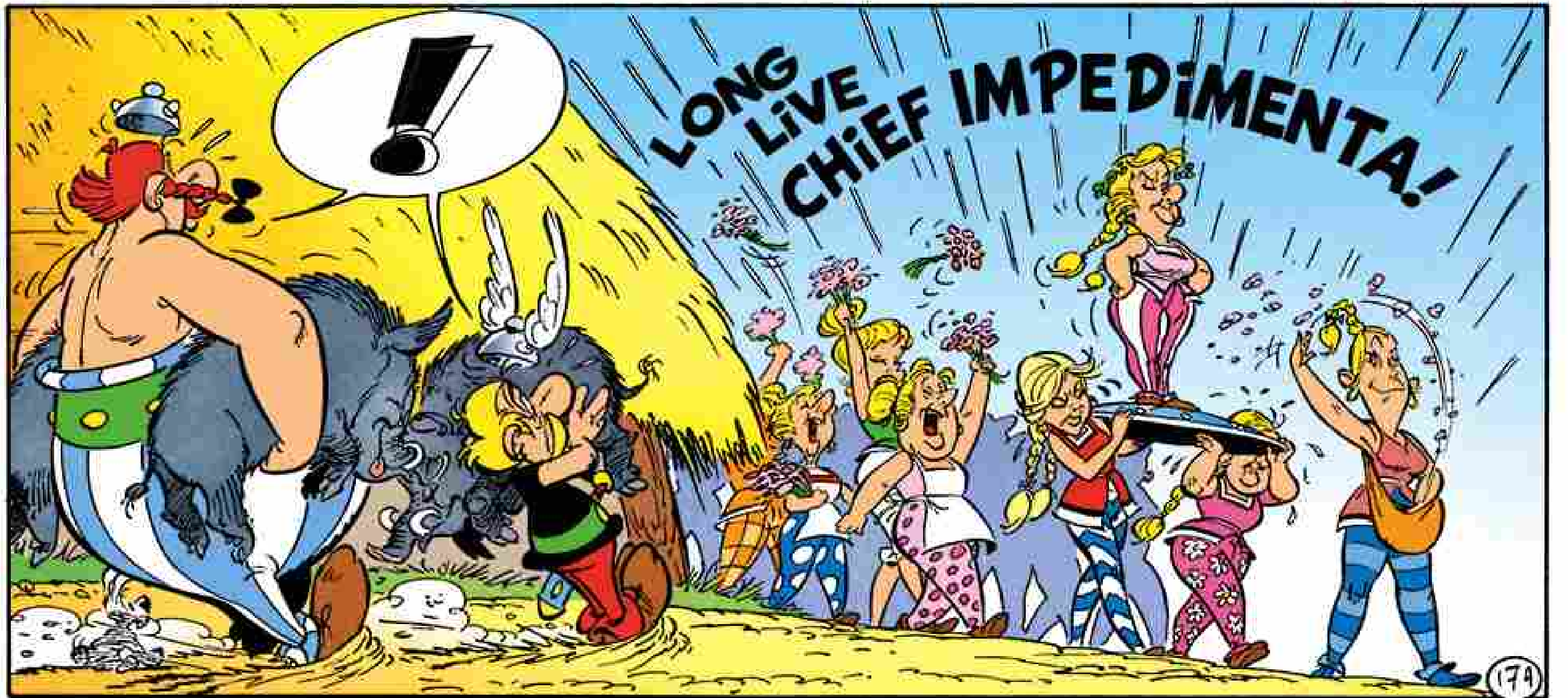
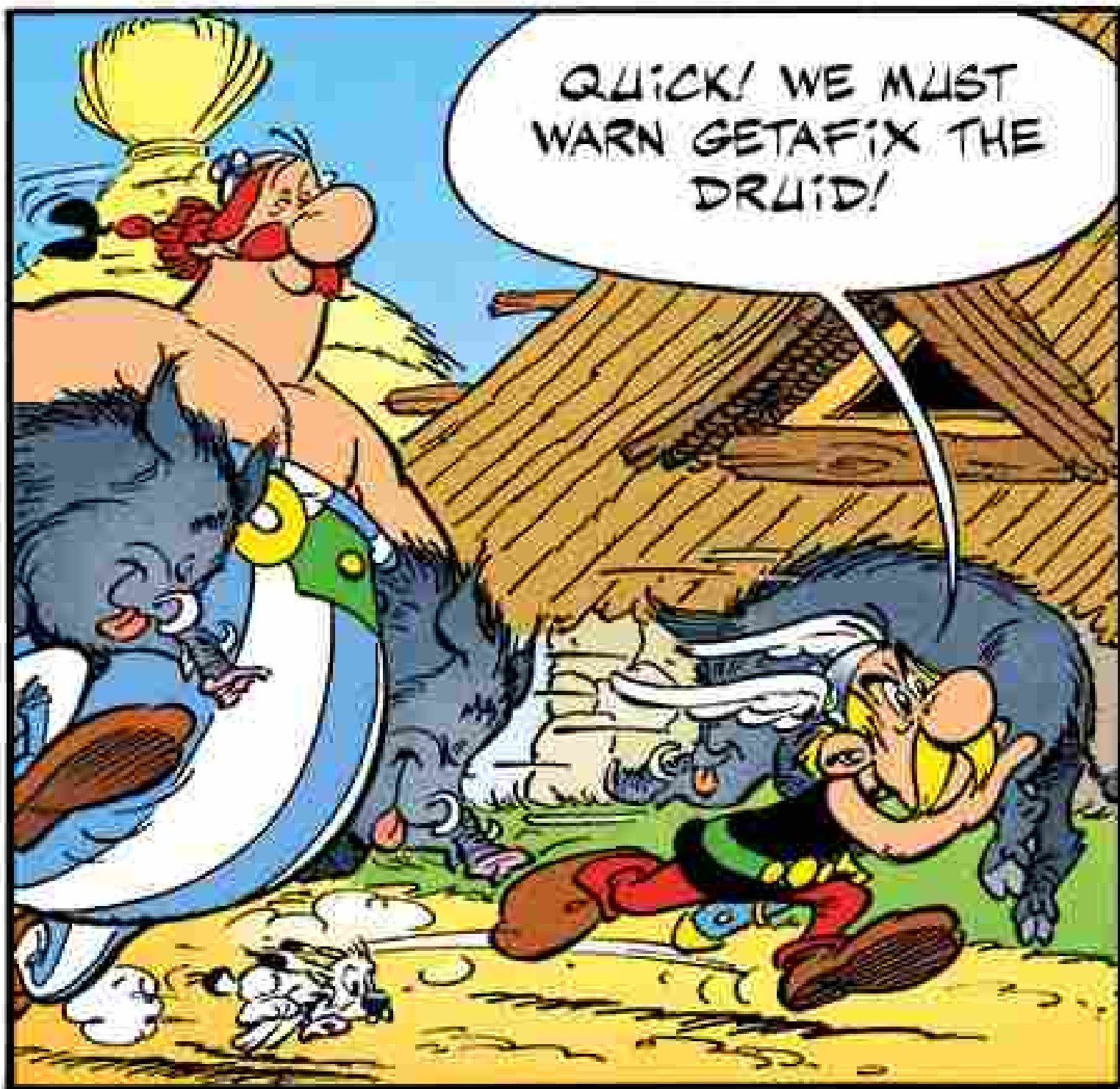
MEANWHILE, IN THE PEACE AND QUIET OF THE ARMORICAN FOREST...



...AND ON THE CALM SURFACE OF THE ARMORICAN SEA...





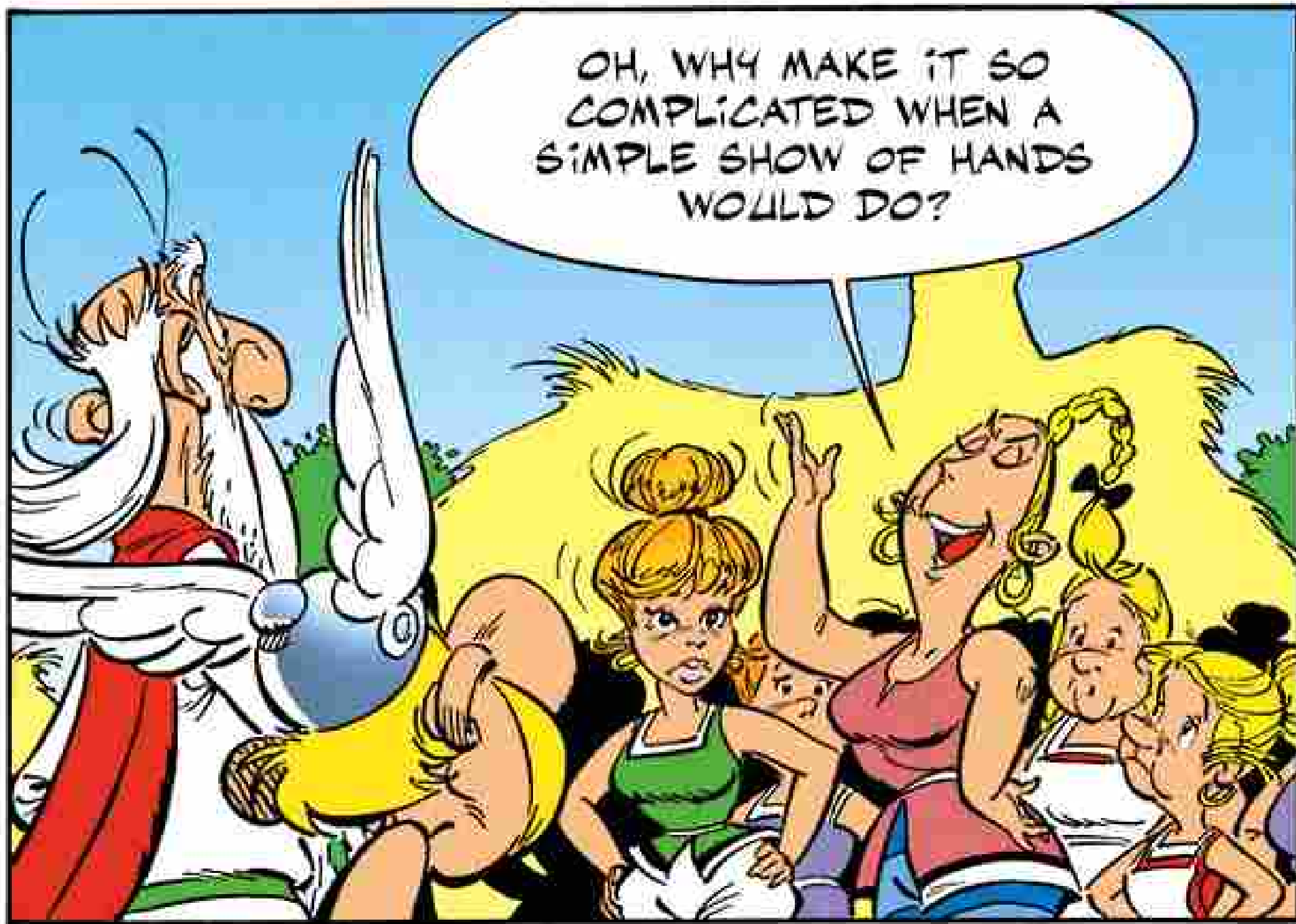




WE'RE GOING TO TAKE
A FREE VOTE ON WHETHER
IMPEDIMENTA OR
VITALSTATISTIX IS TO
BE OUR CHIEF!



EACH IN TURN, WE SHALL ENTER MY HUT
AND PLACE A PEBBLE IN THIS CASK
TO INDICATE OUR CHOICE:
WHITE PEBBLES FOR
IMPEDIMENTA, YELLOW
PEBBLES FOR
VITALSTATISTIX.



OH, WHY MAKE IT SO
COMPLICATED WHEN A
SIMPLE SHOW OF HANDS
WOULD DO?



SHE'S RIGHT! LET'S HAVE
A SHOW OF HANDS!

HUH! WHY NOT A SHOW
OF FEET WHILE WE'RE
ABOUT IT?

OH YES, YOU'D GET
A BIG KICK OUT
OF THAT!

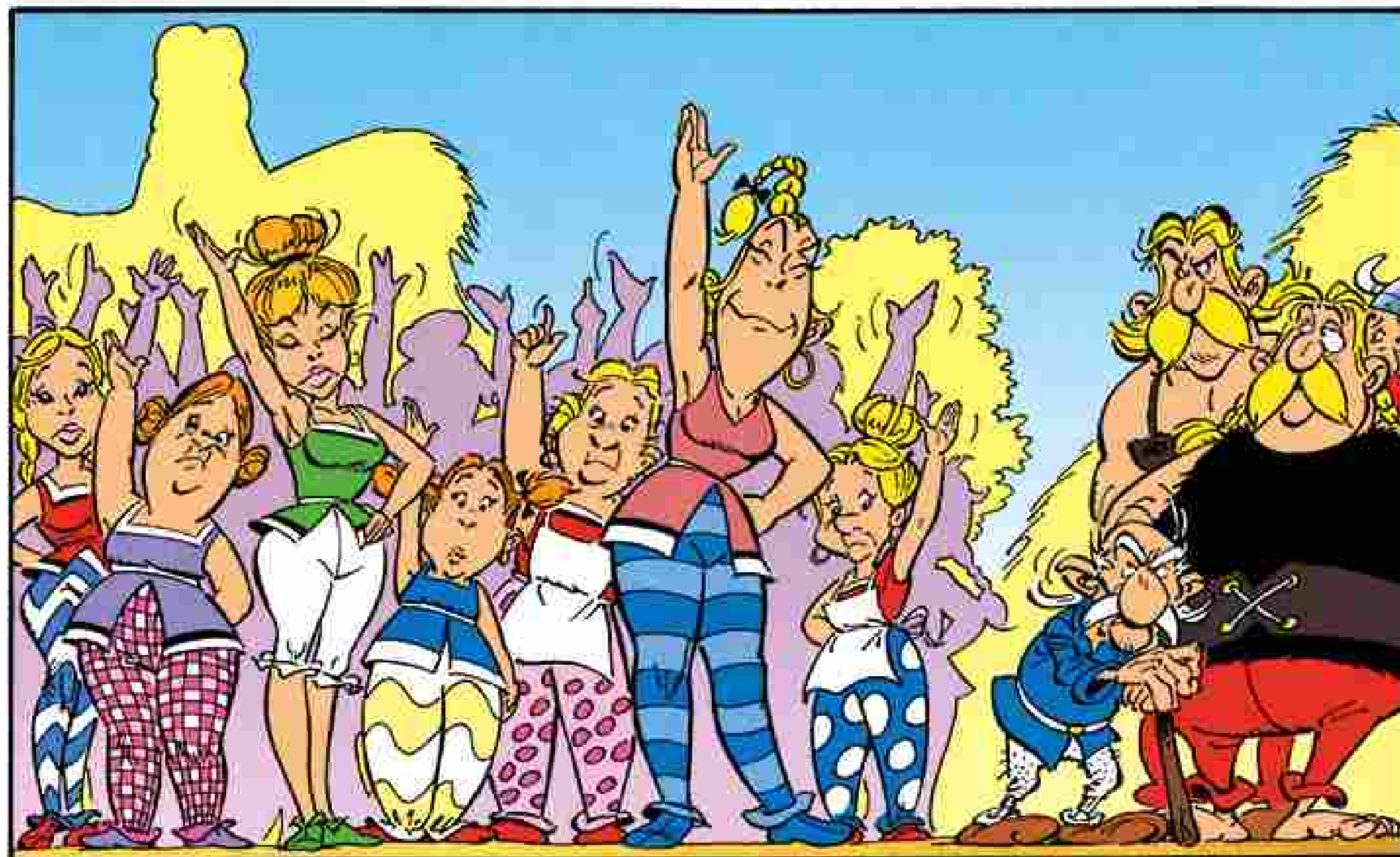
NOT EXACTLY
UNANIMOUS,
ARE THEY?



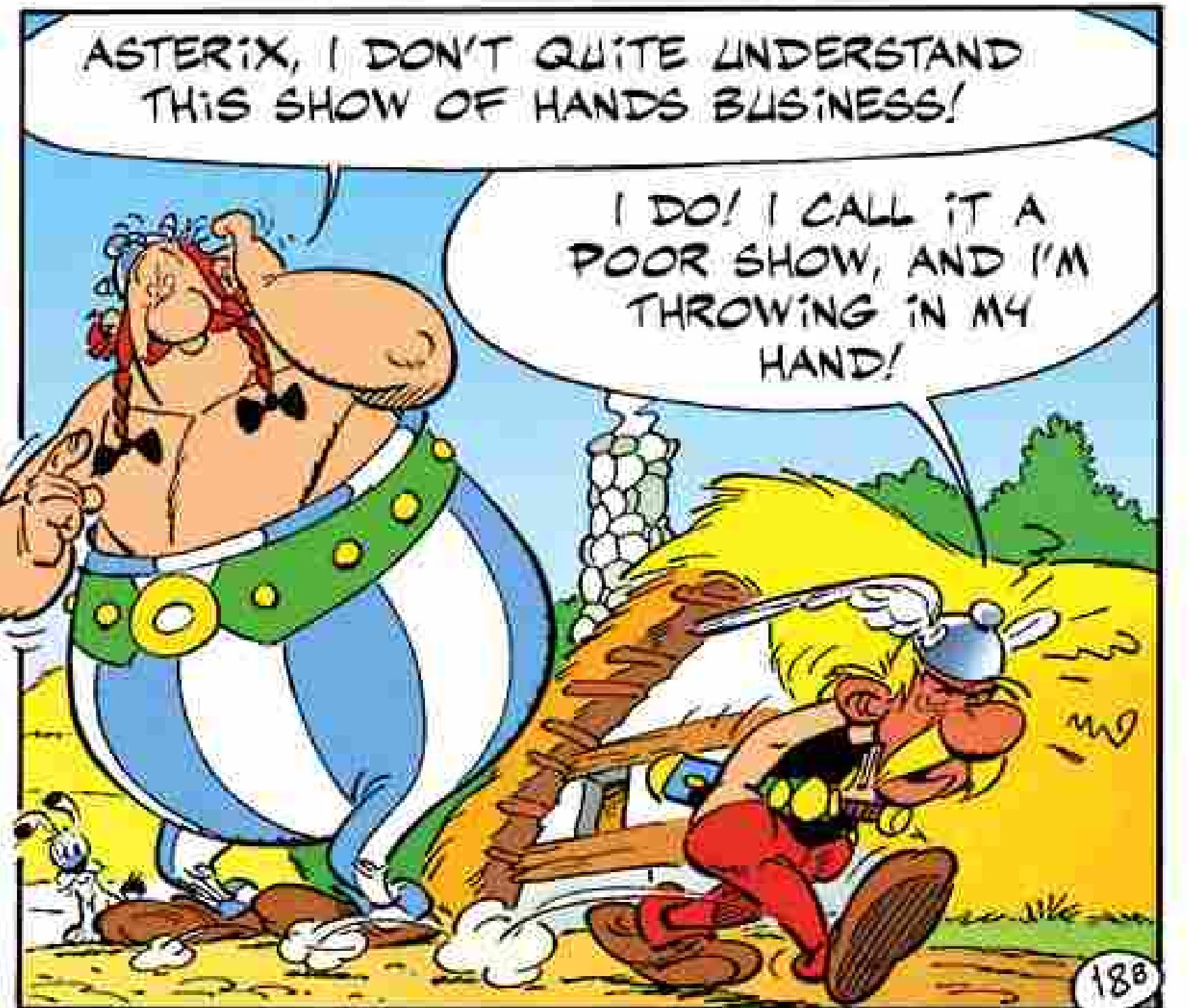
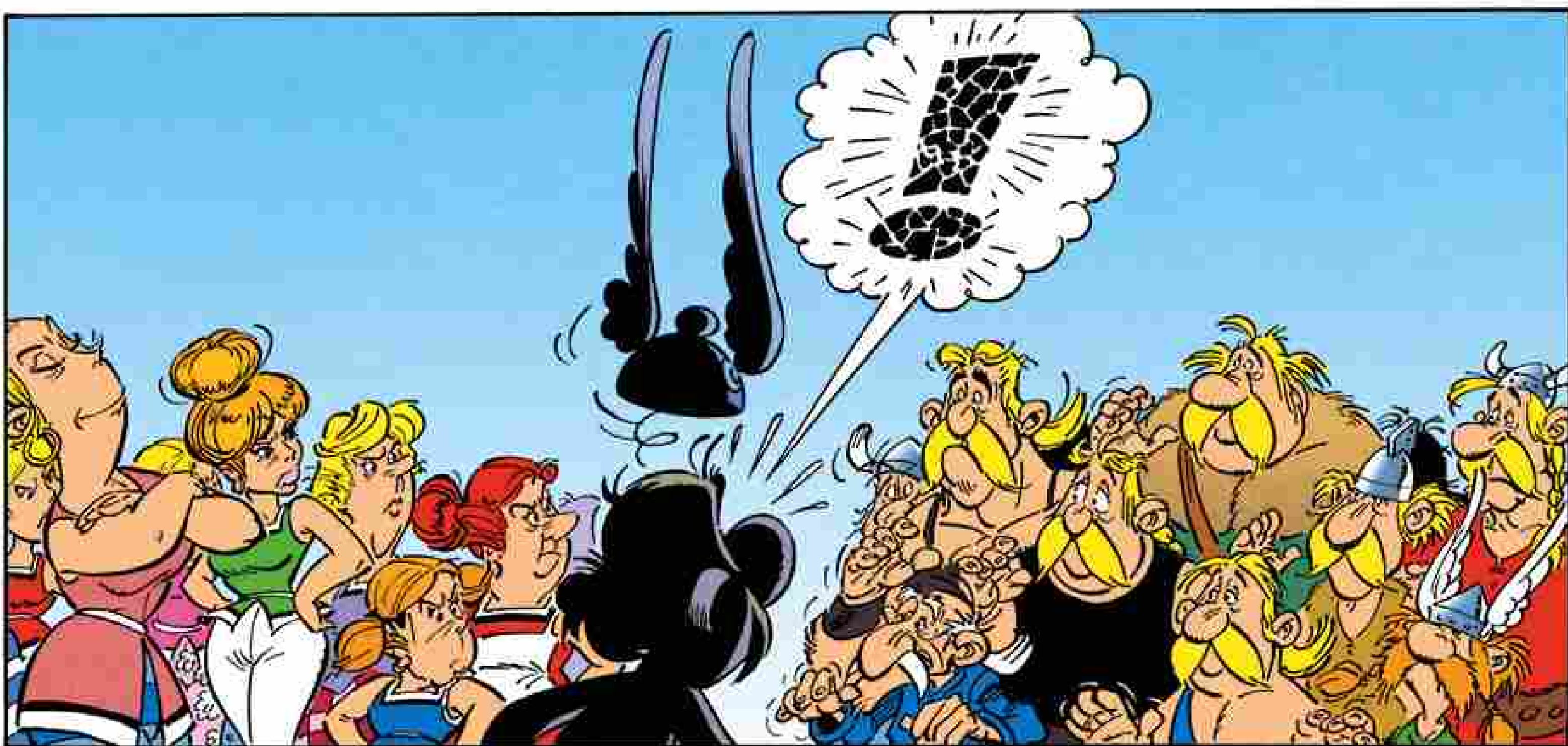
IT'S PERFECTLY
SIMPLE! LET'S VOTE BY
A SHOW OF HANDS TO
SHOW IF WE WANT
TO VOTE BY A SHOW
OF HANDS!



ALL WHO WANT TO
VOTE BY A SHOW OF
HANDS SHOW THEIR
HANDS!

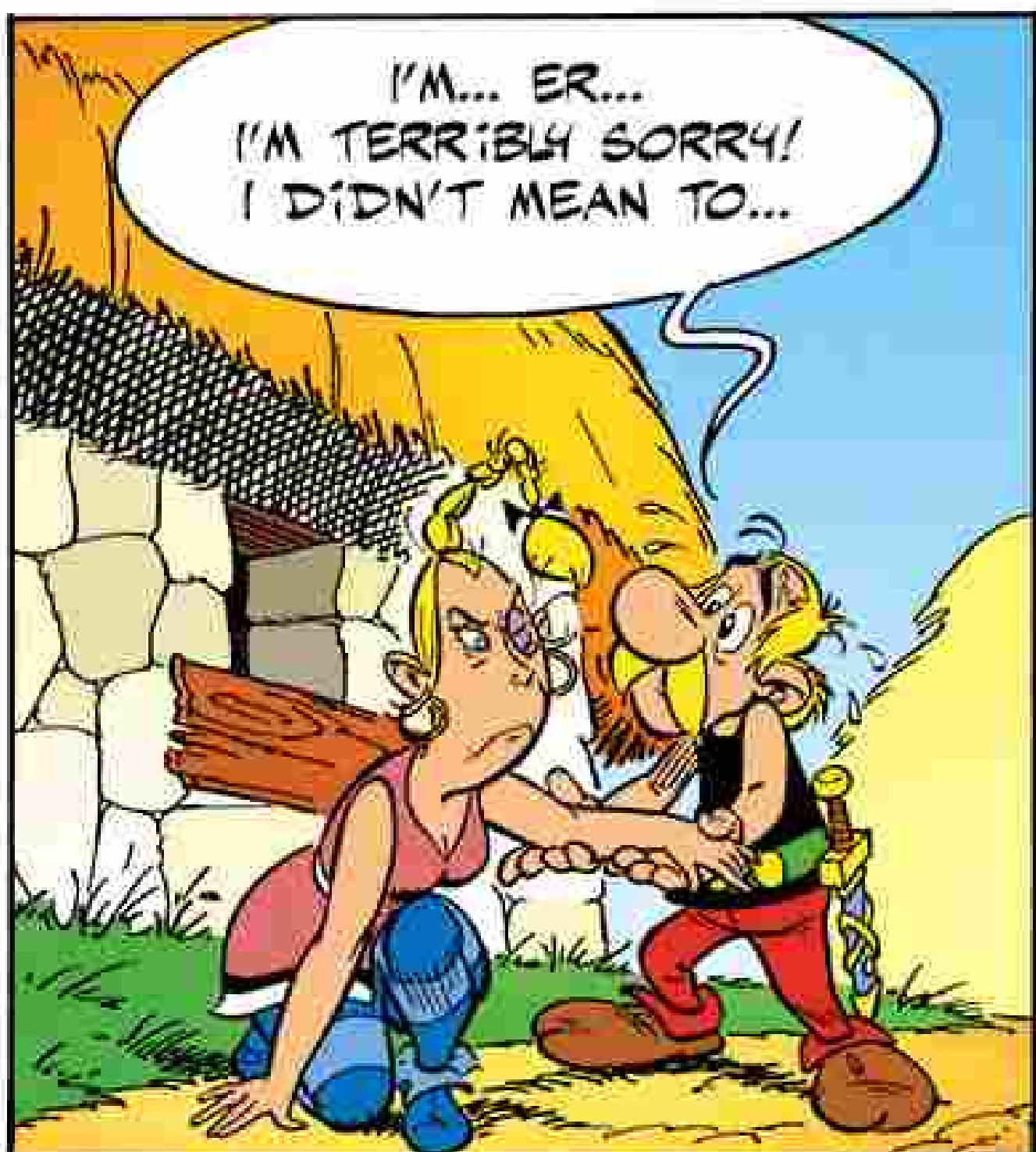
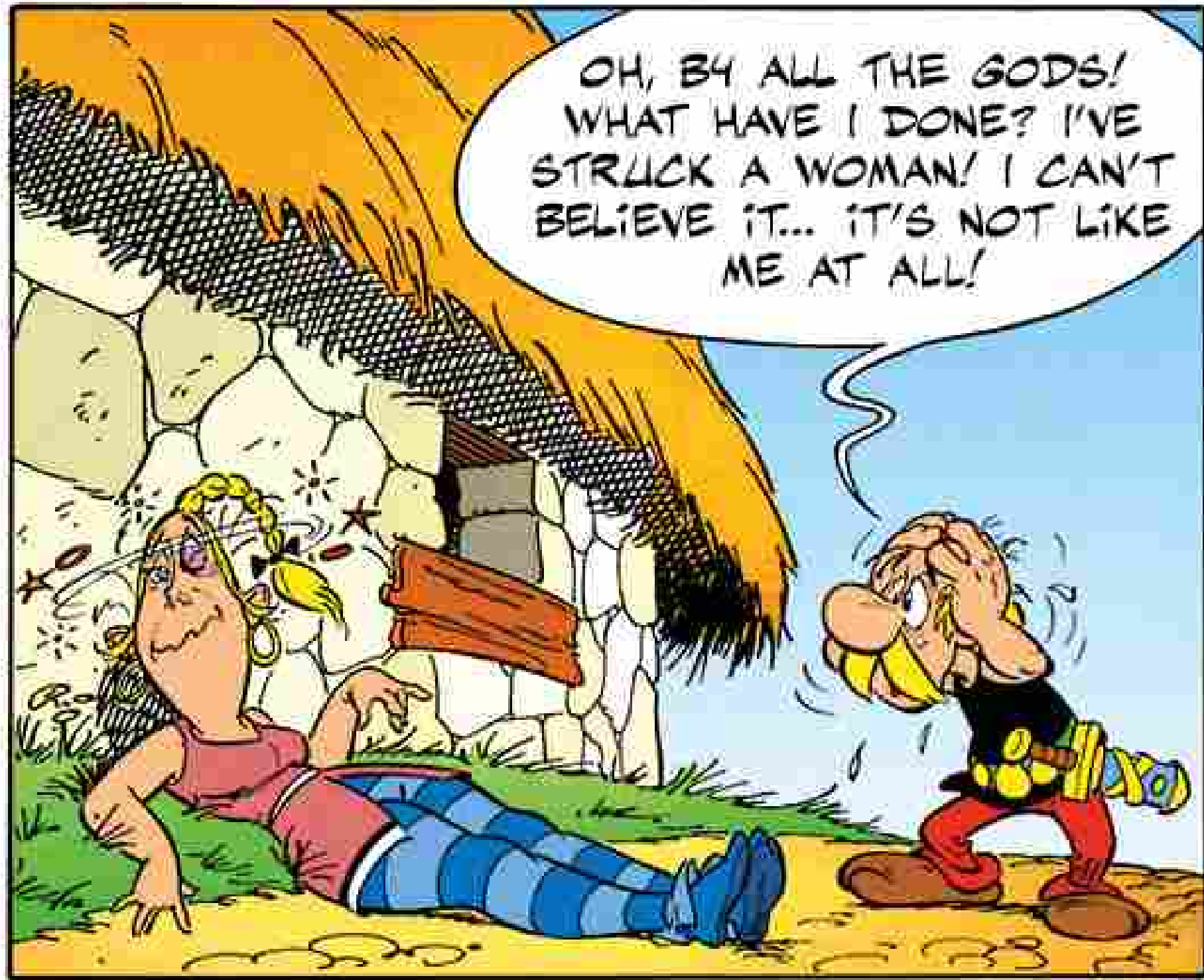
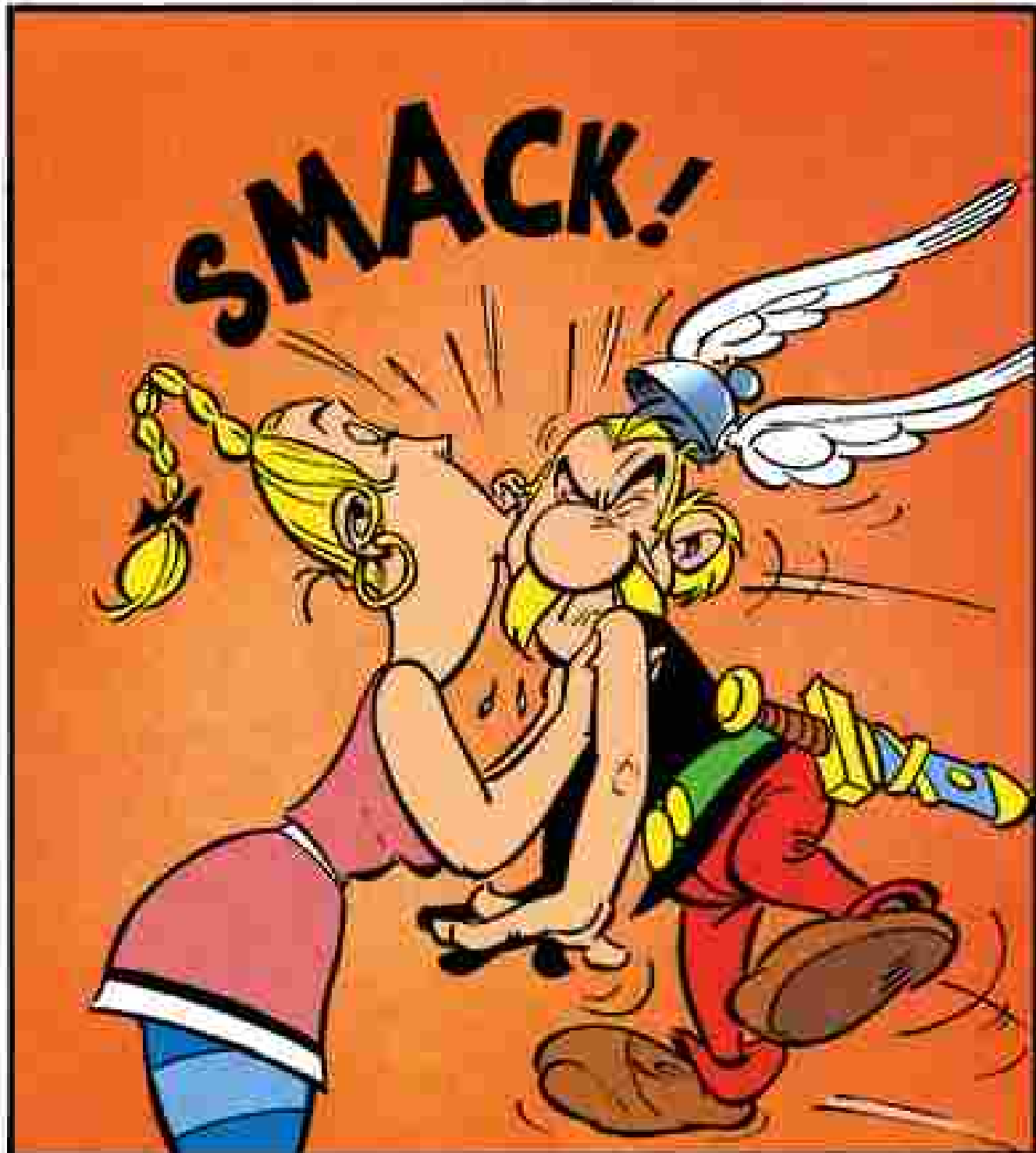
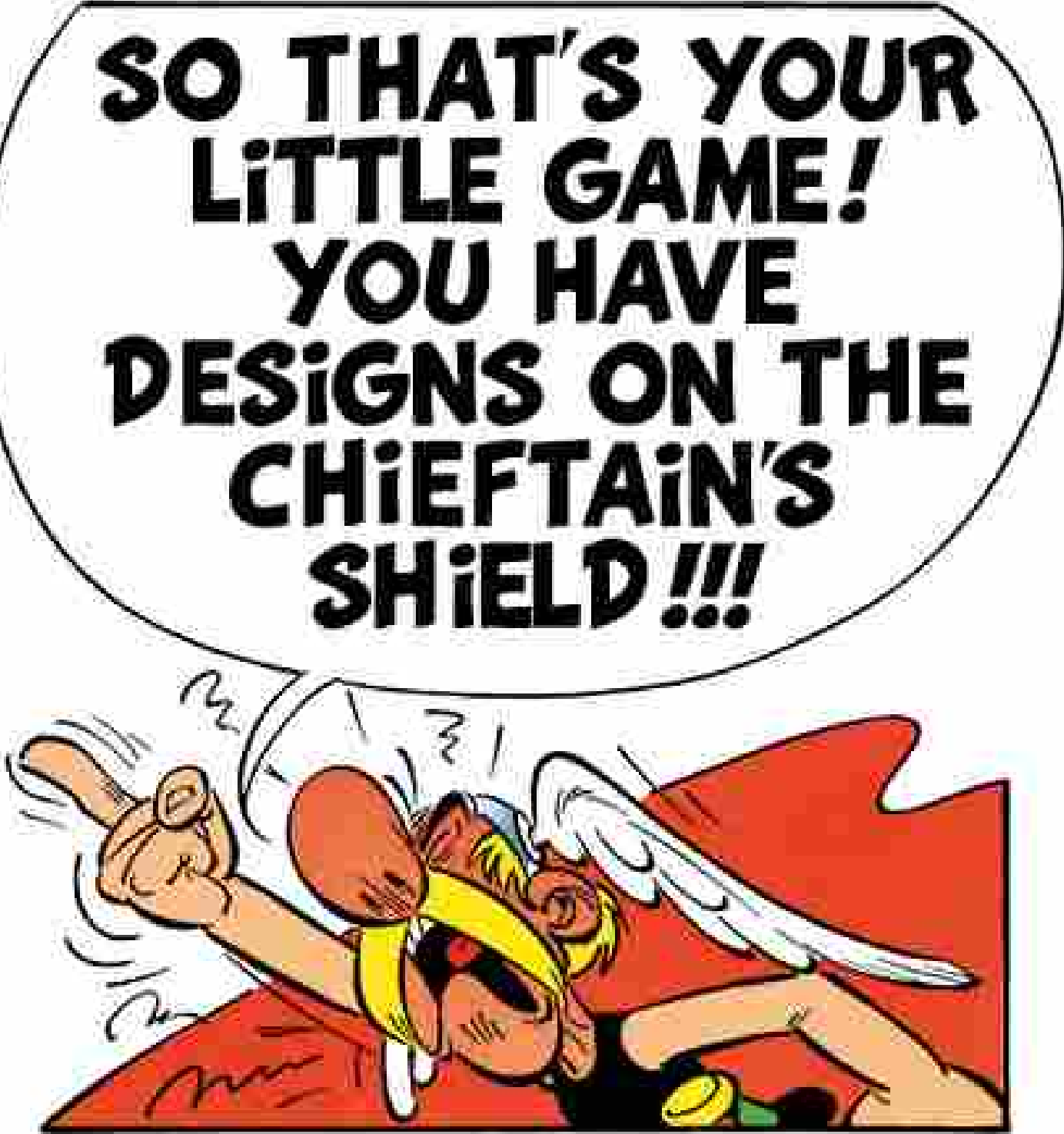
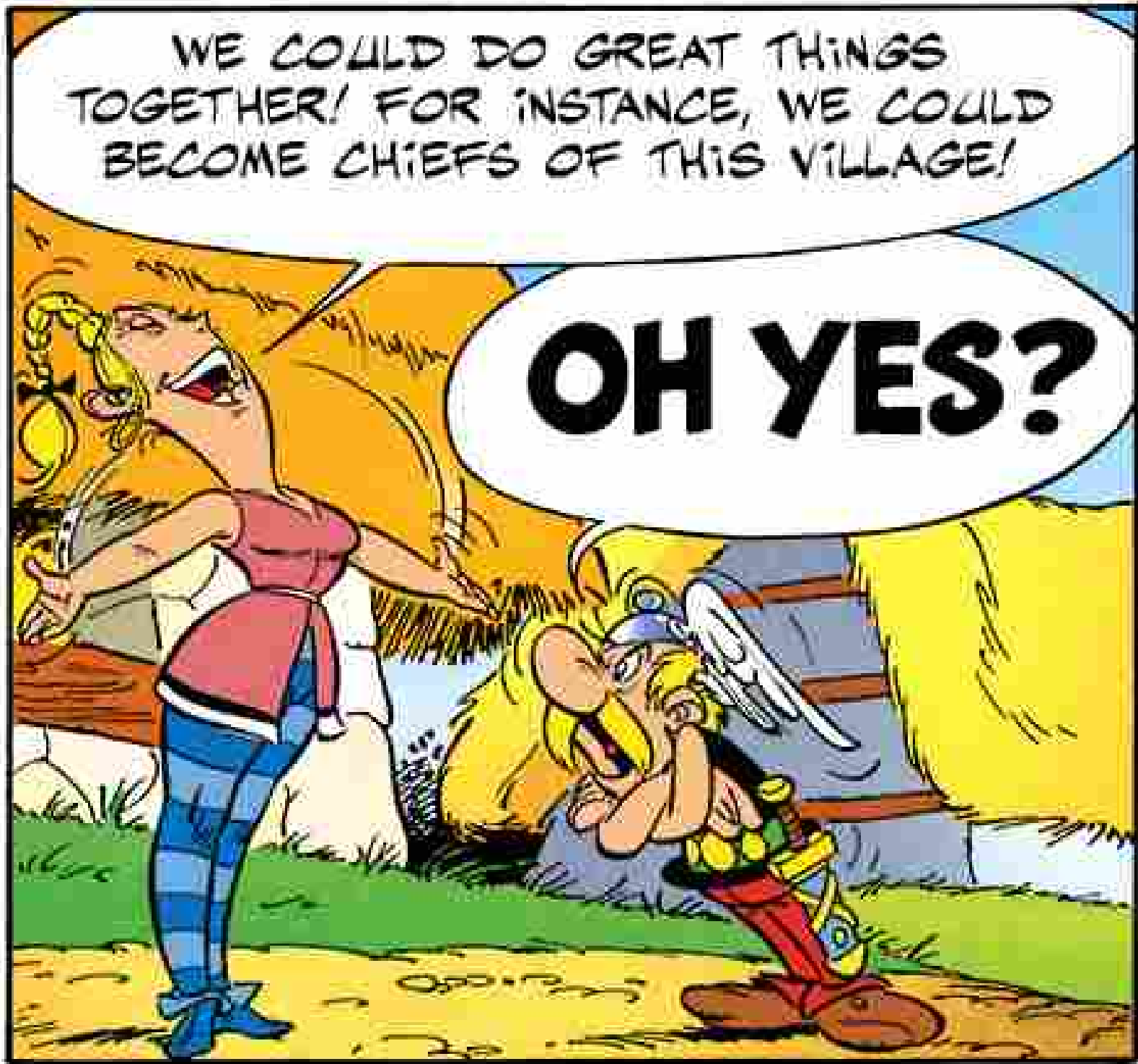


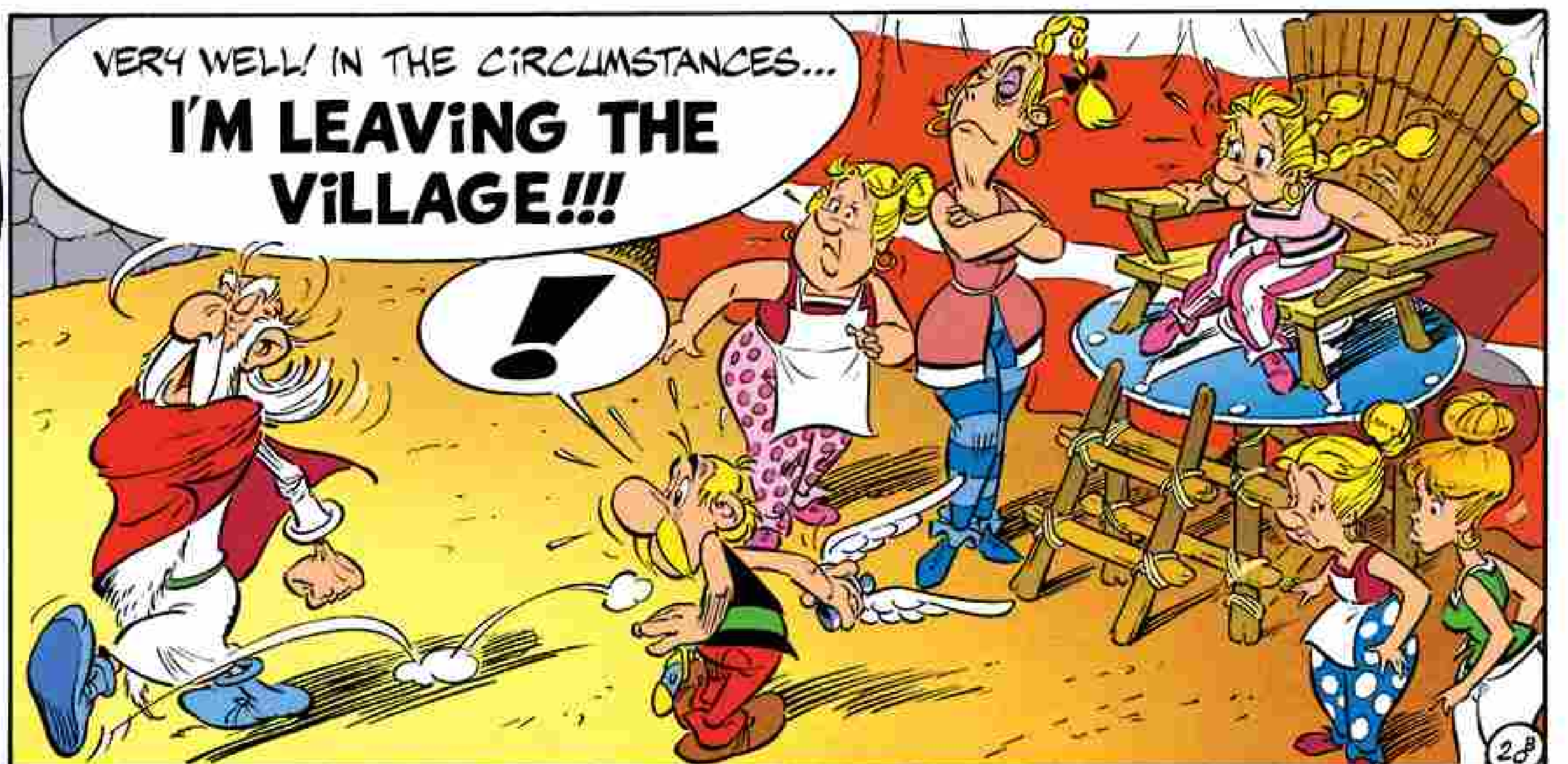
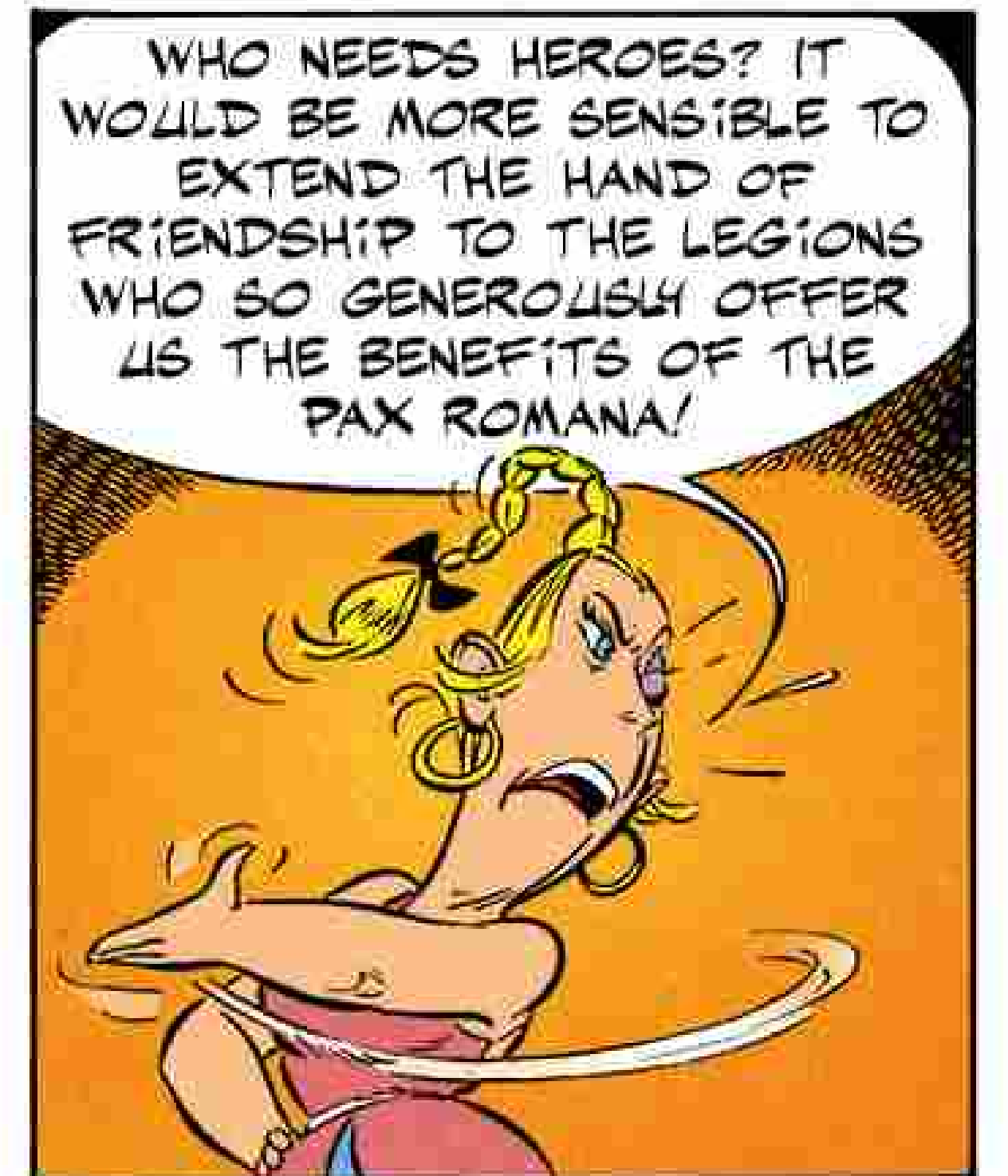
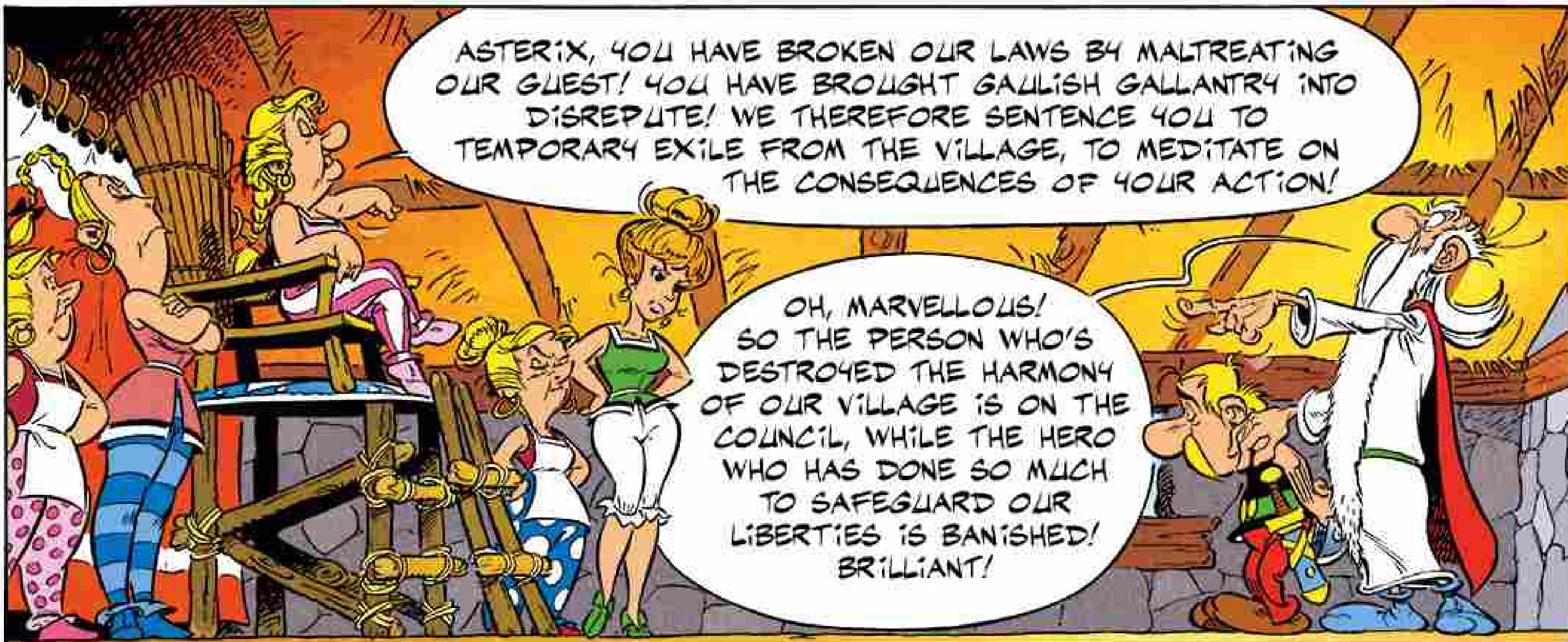
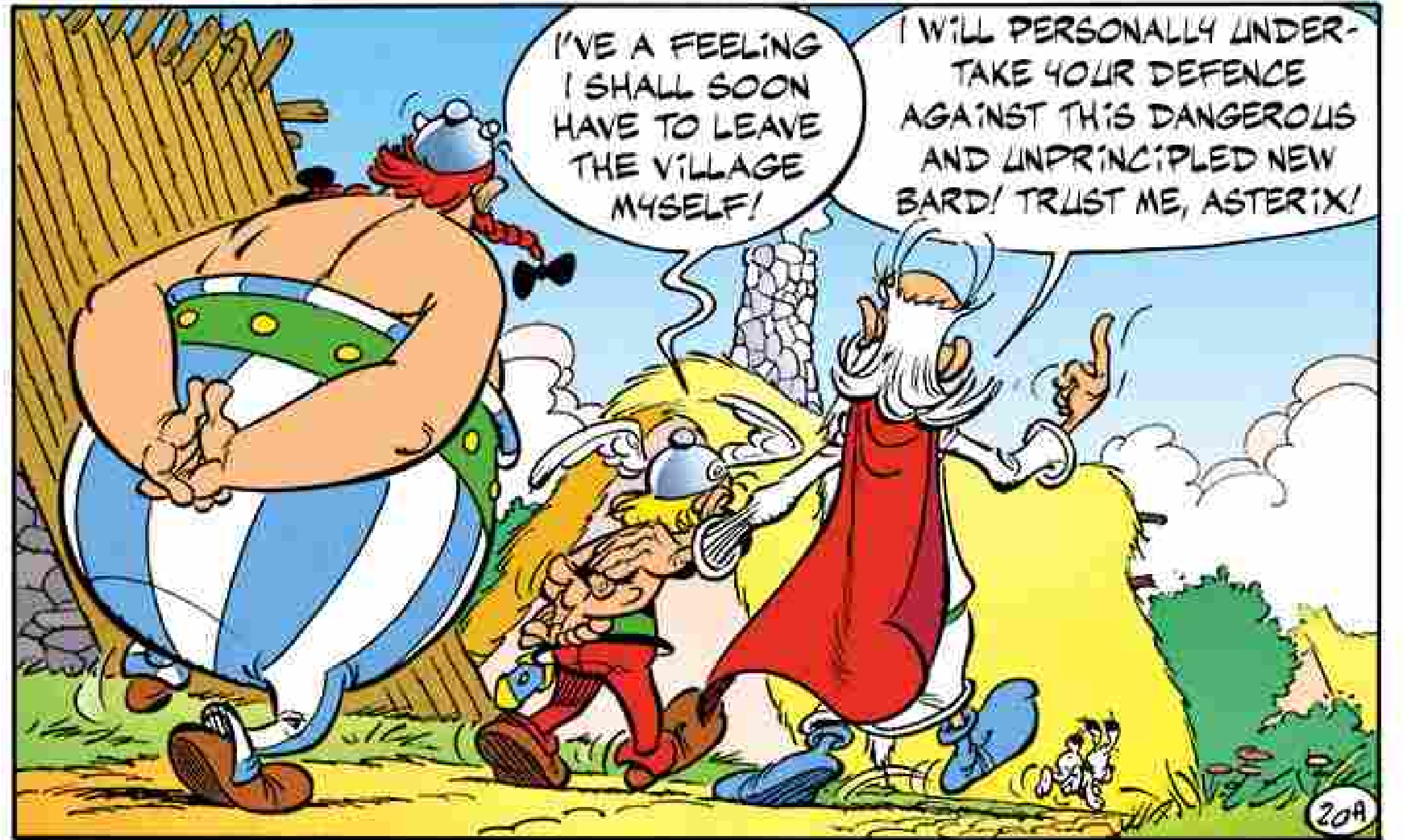
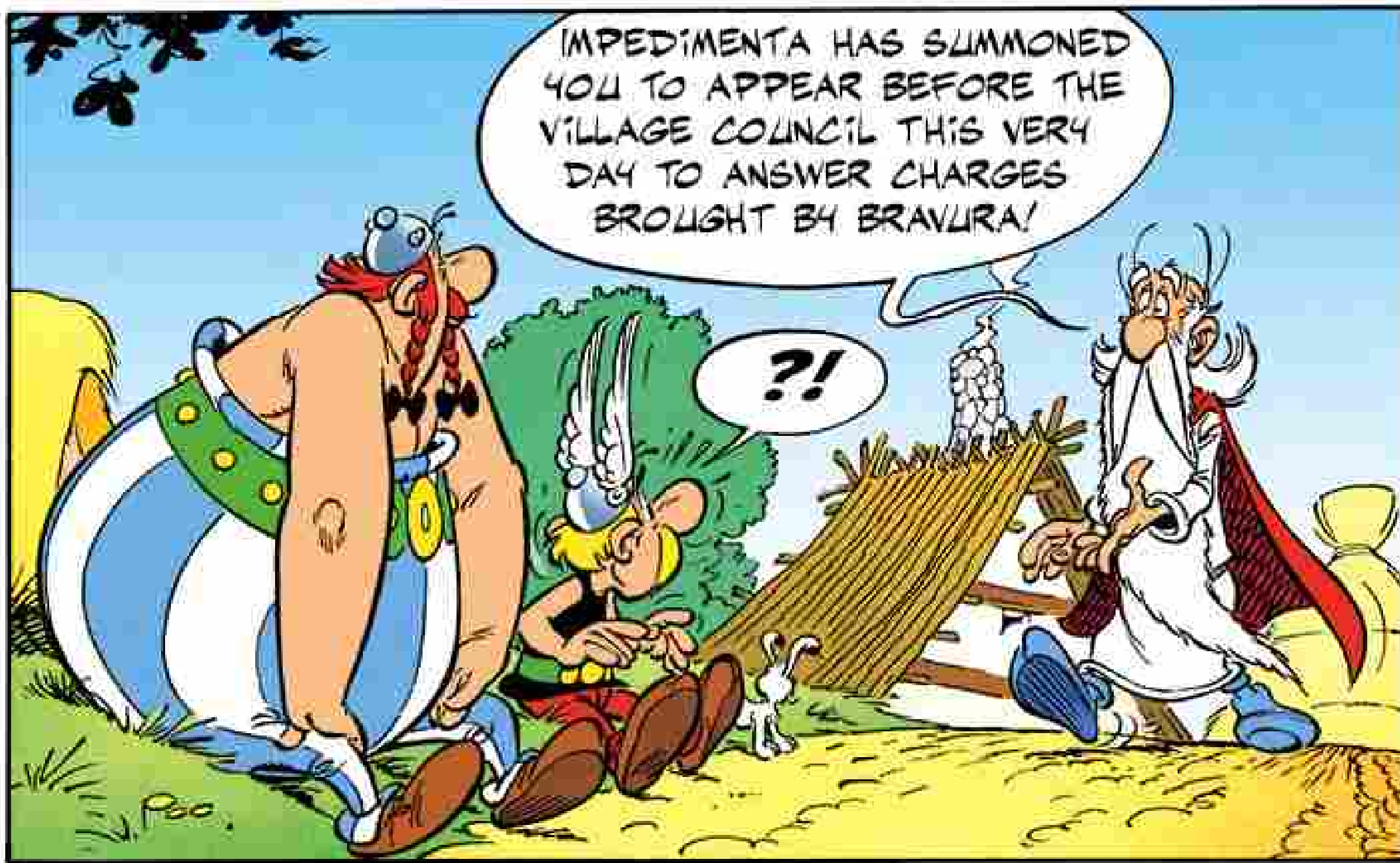
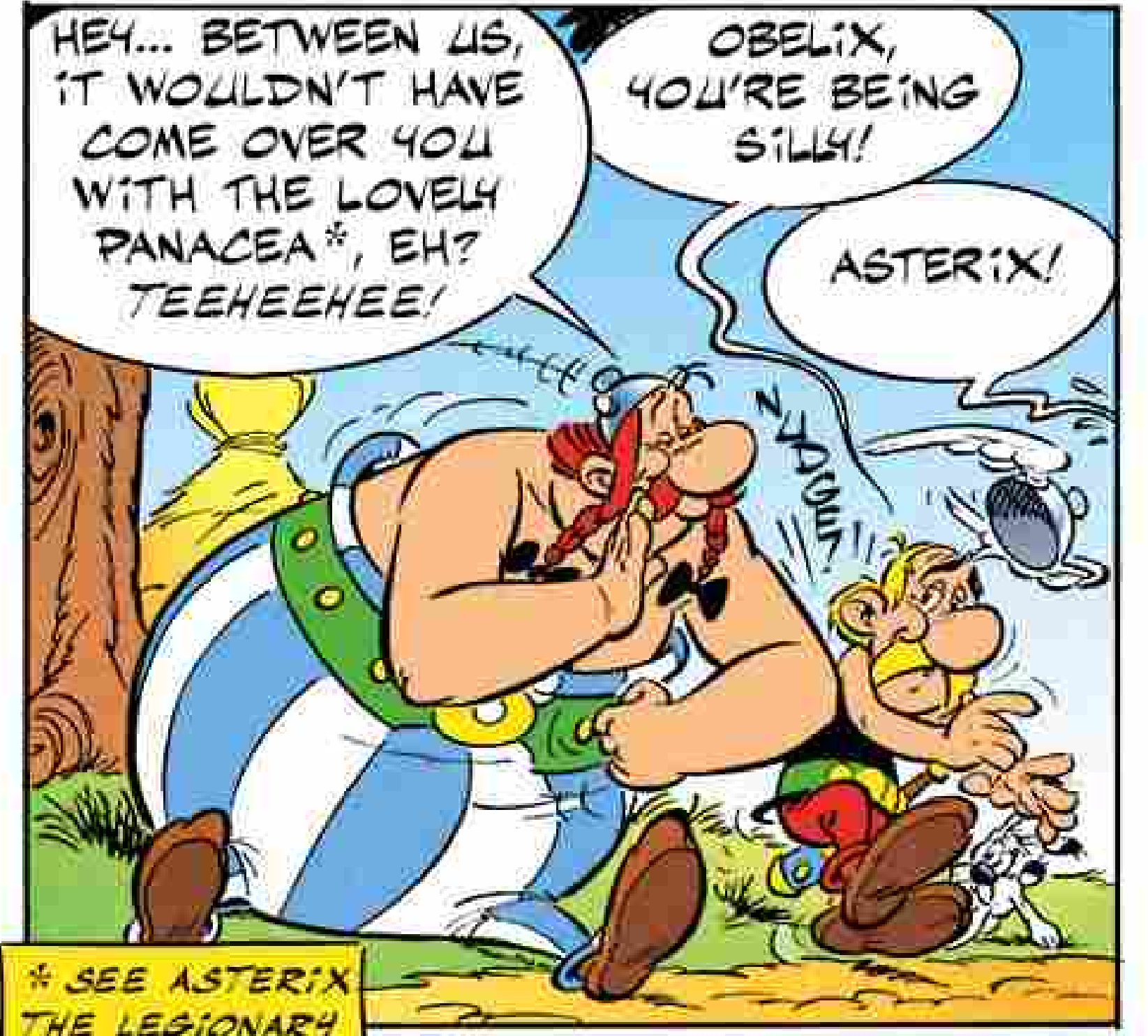
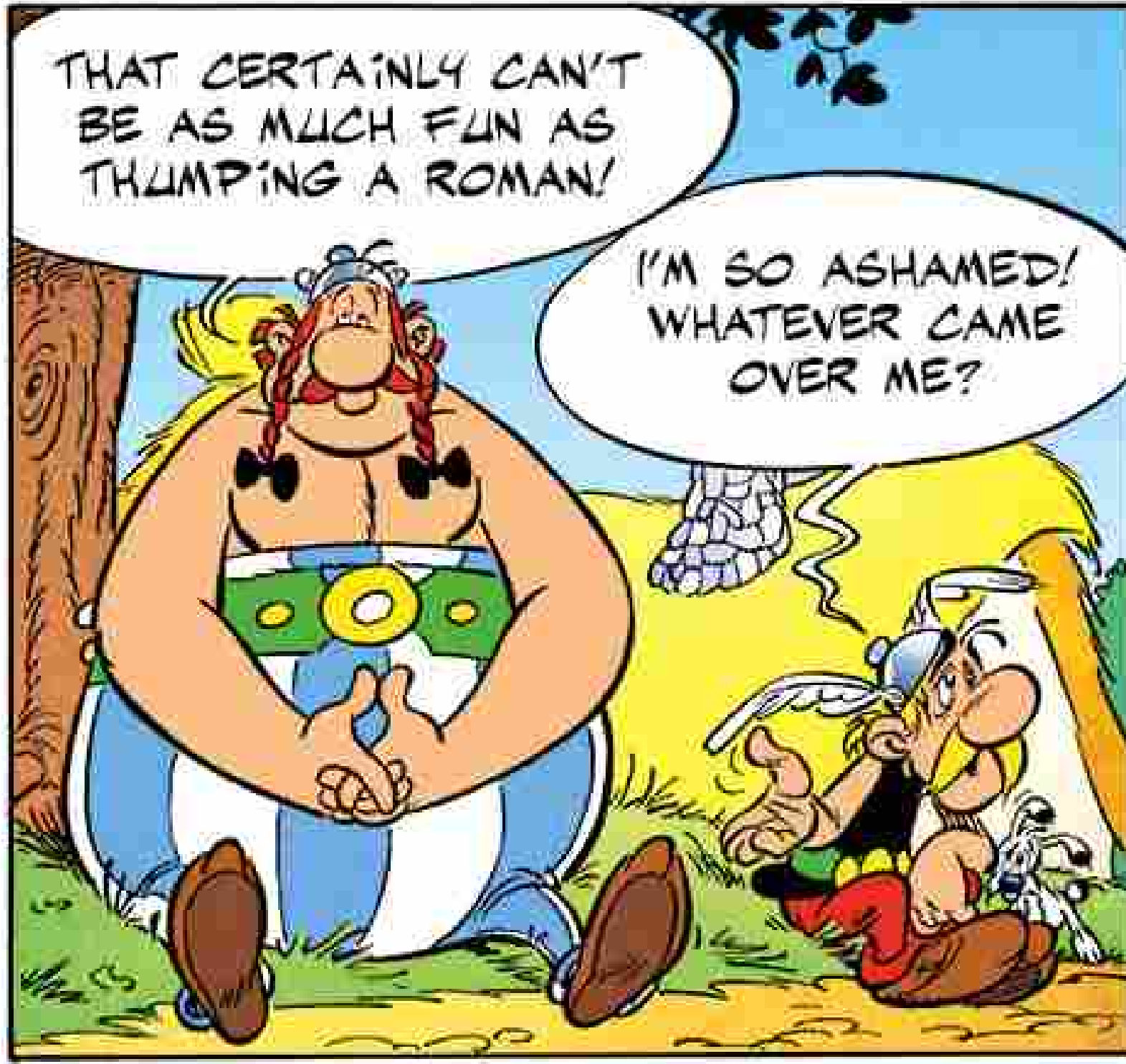
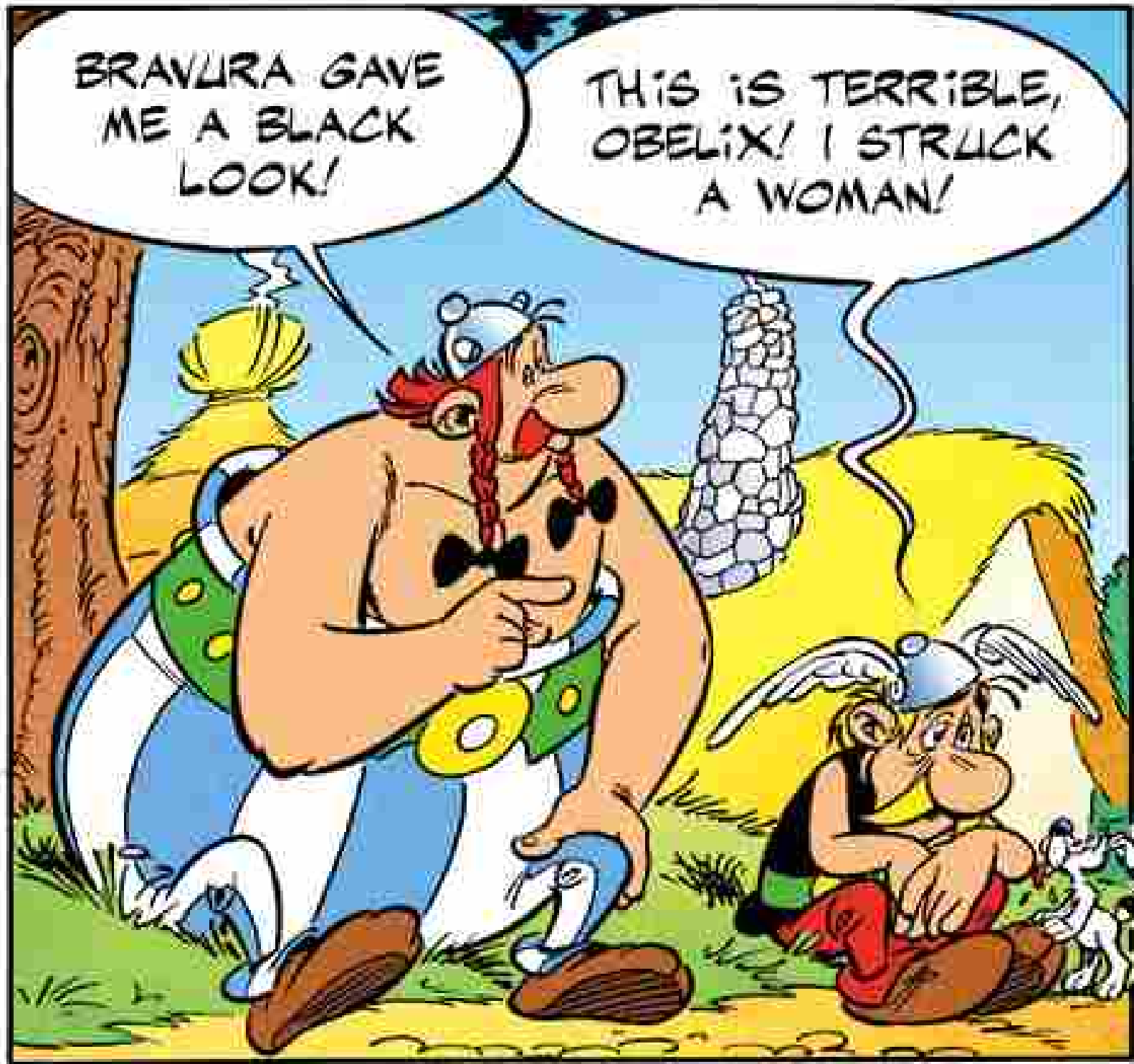
RIGHT. ALL WHO
DON'T WANT TO VOTE
BY A SHOW OF HANDS
SHOW THEIR
HANDS!

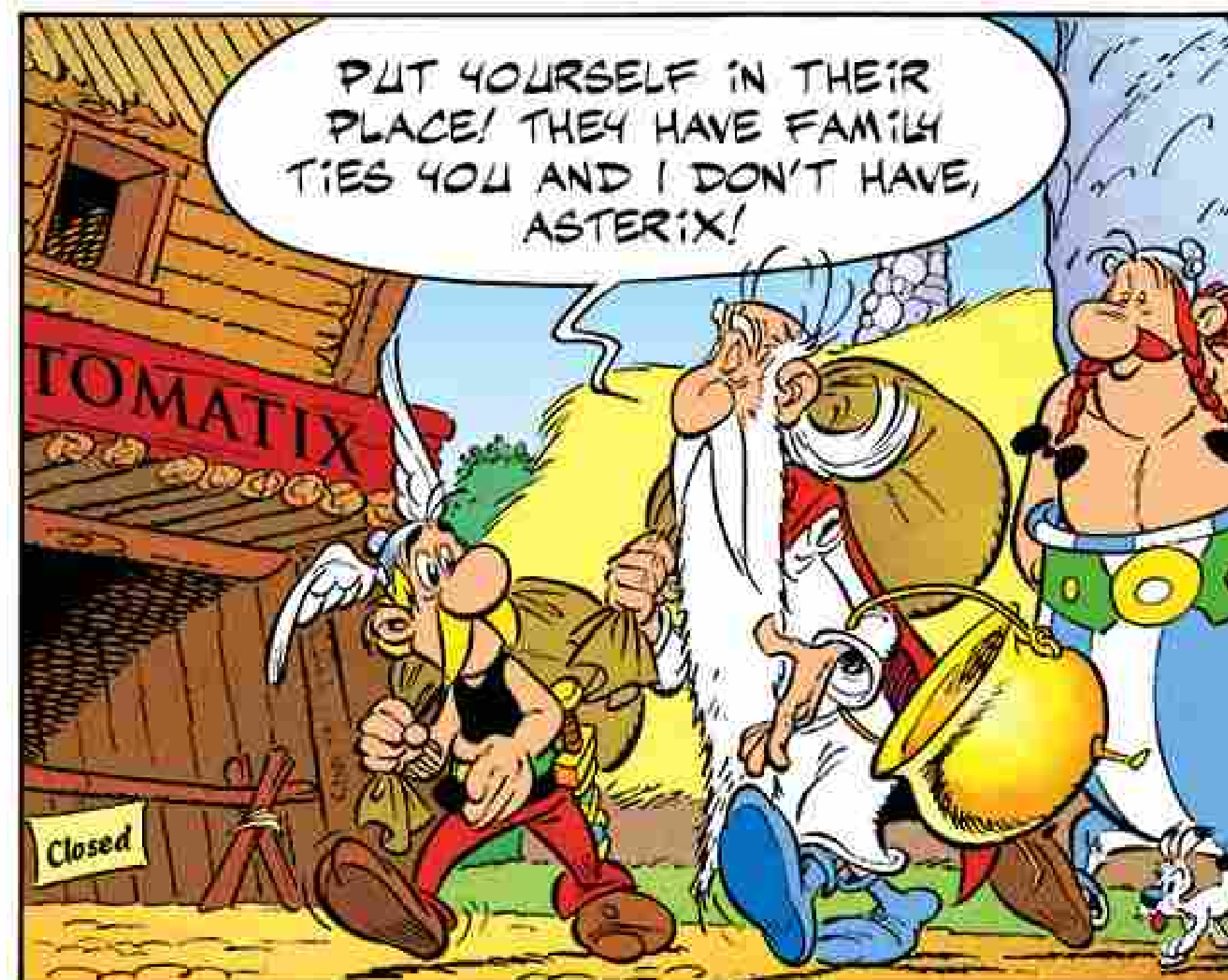
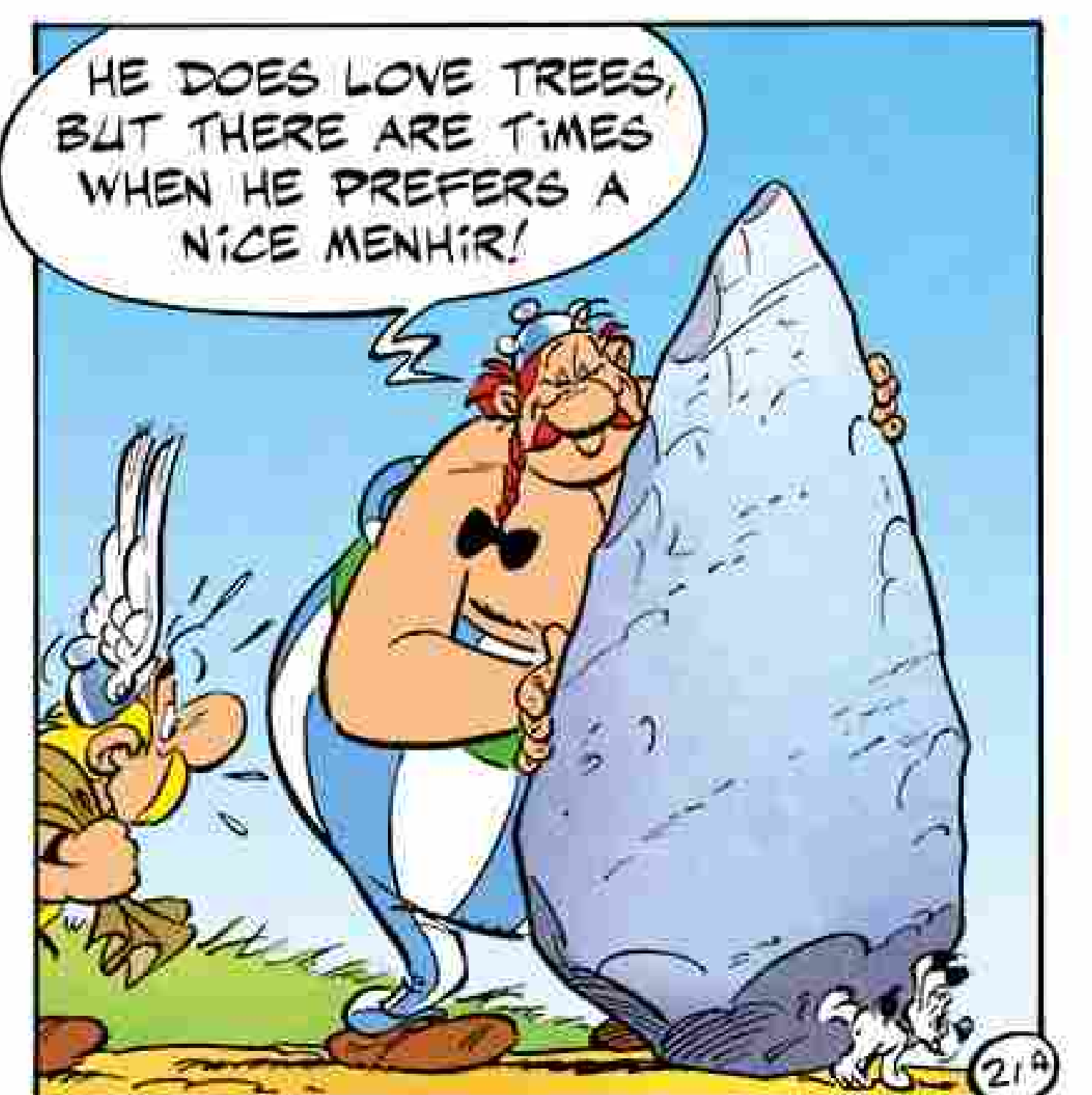
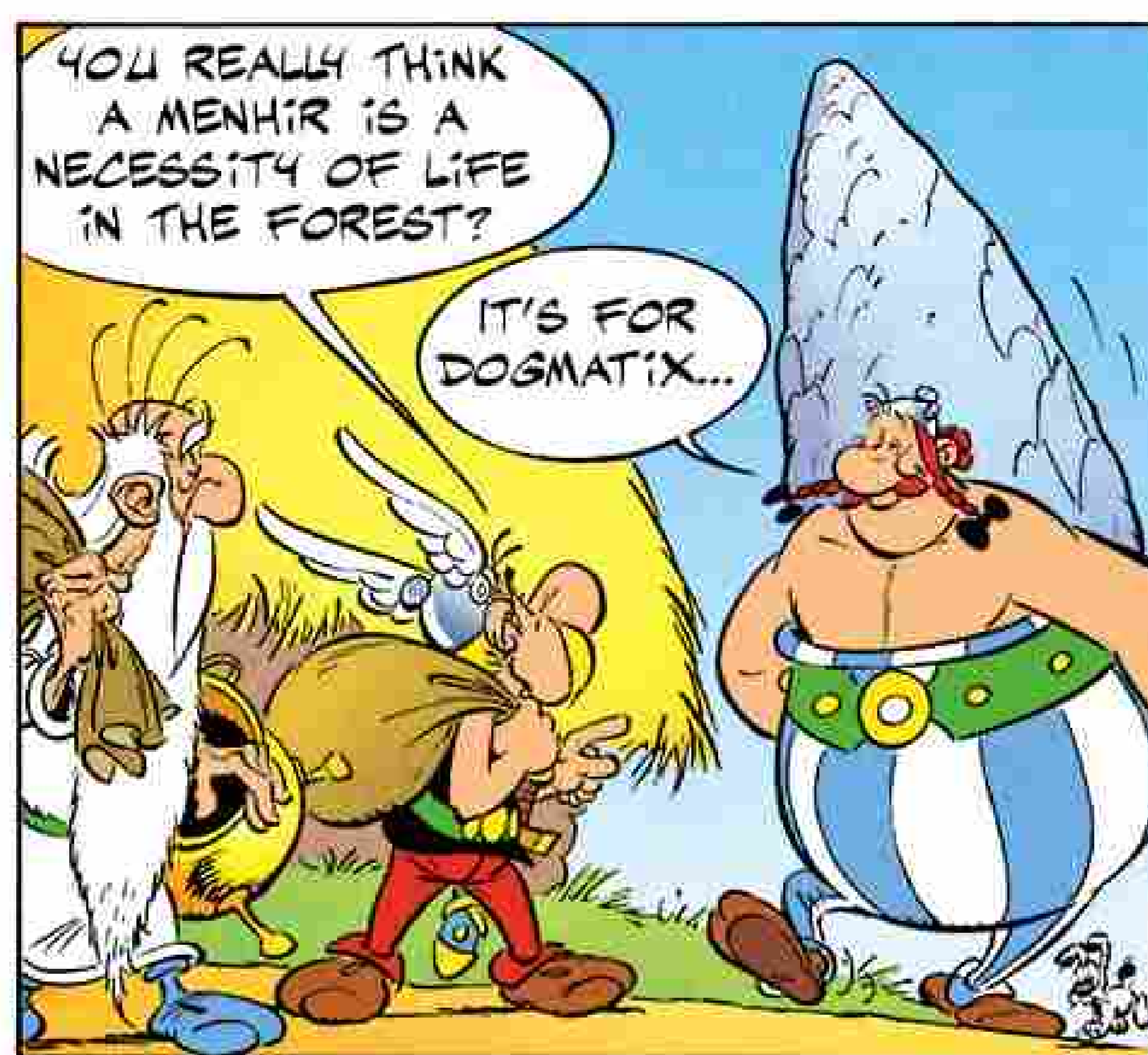
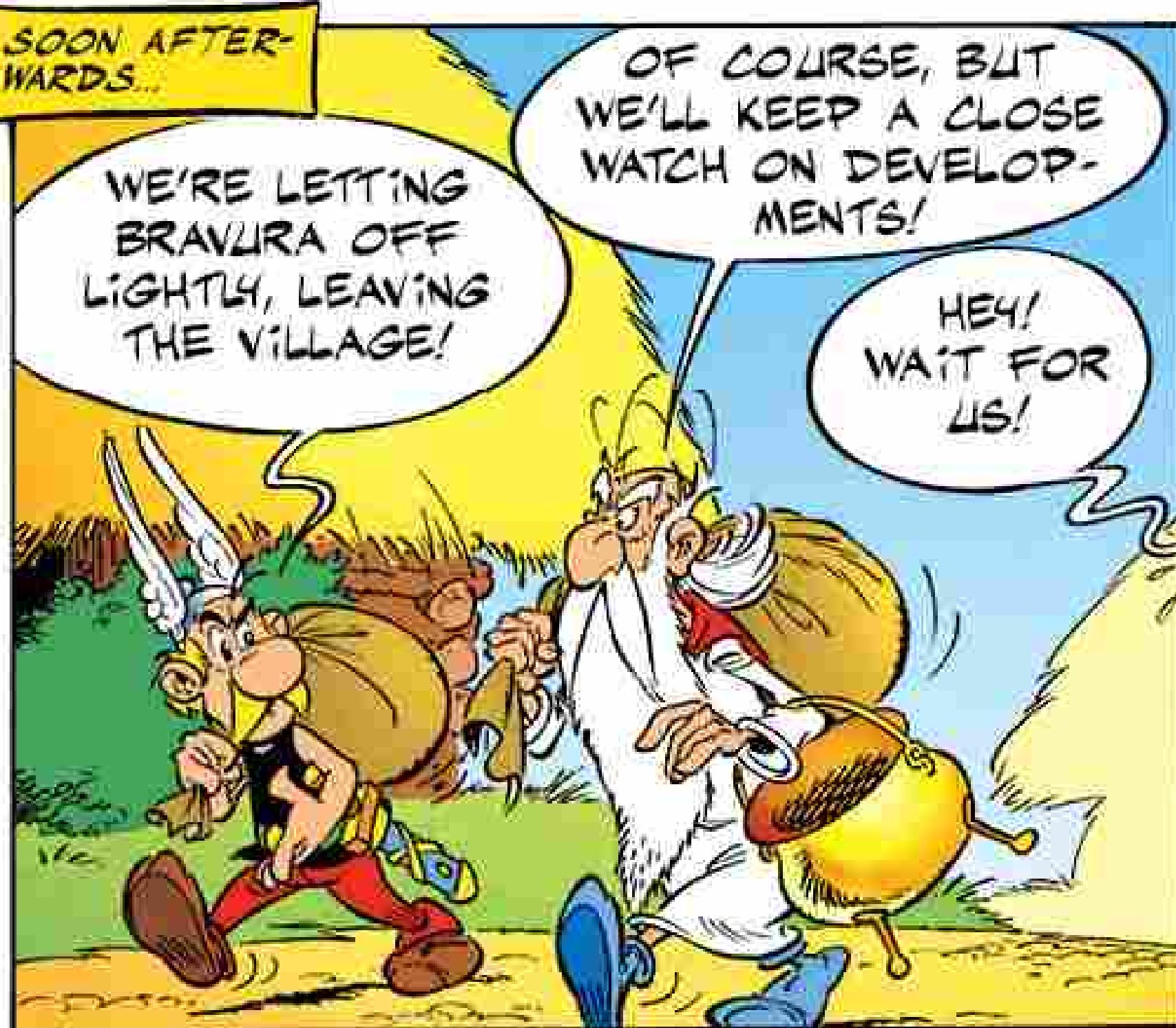
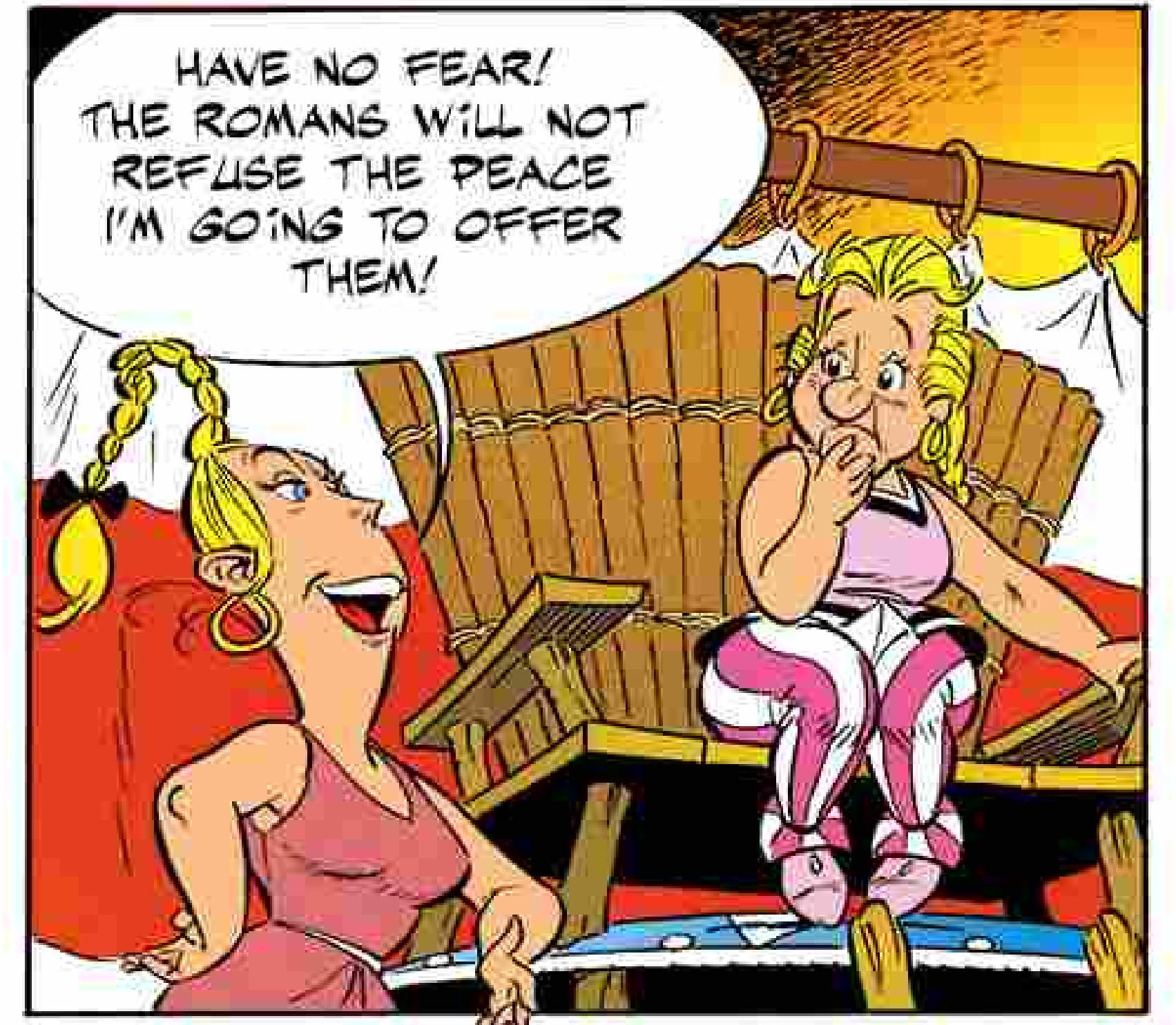
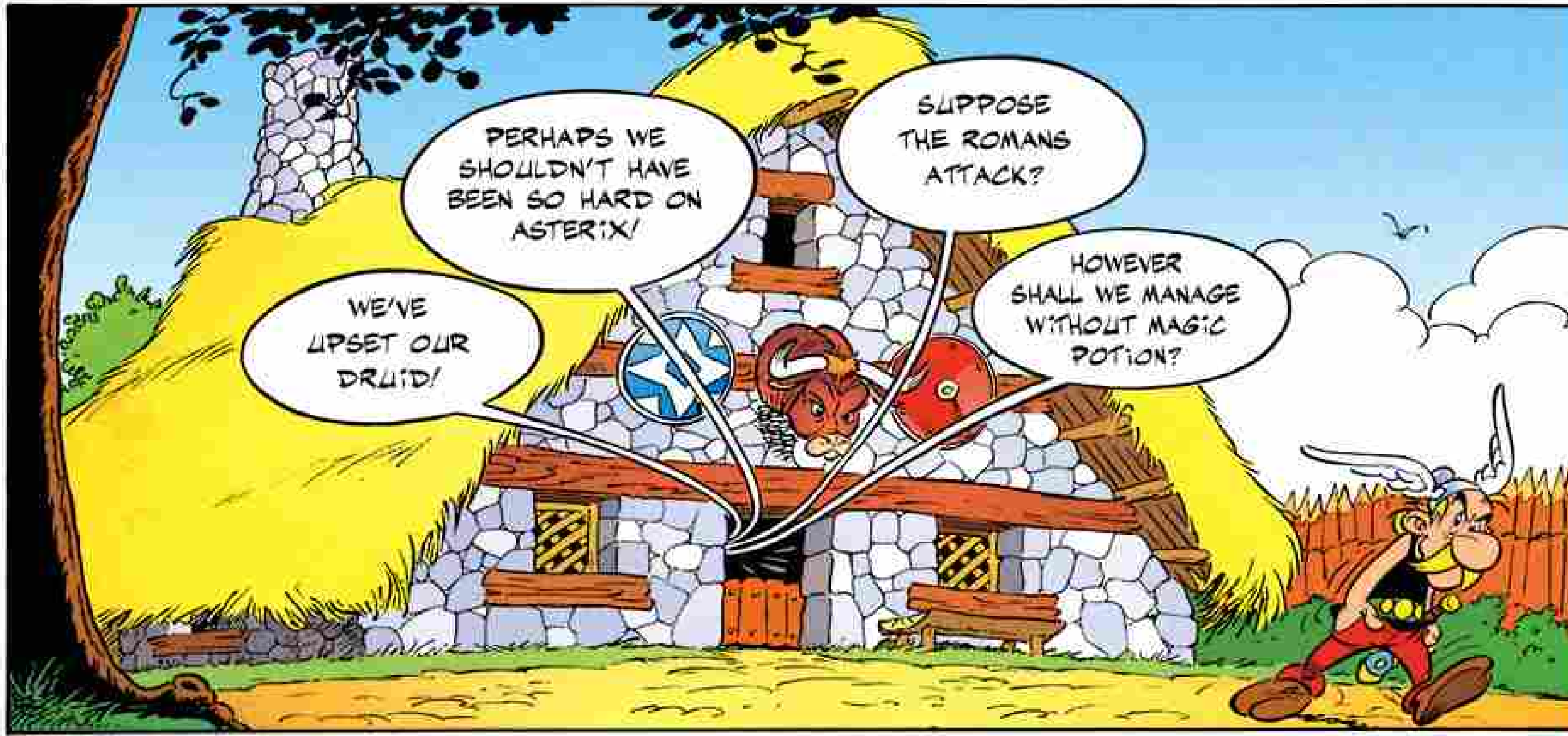


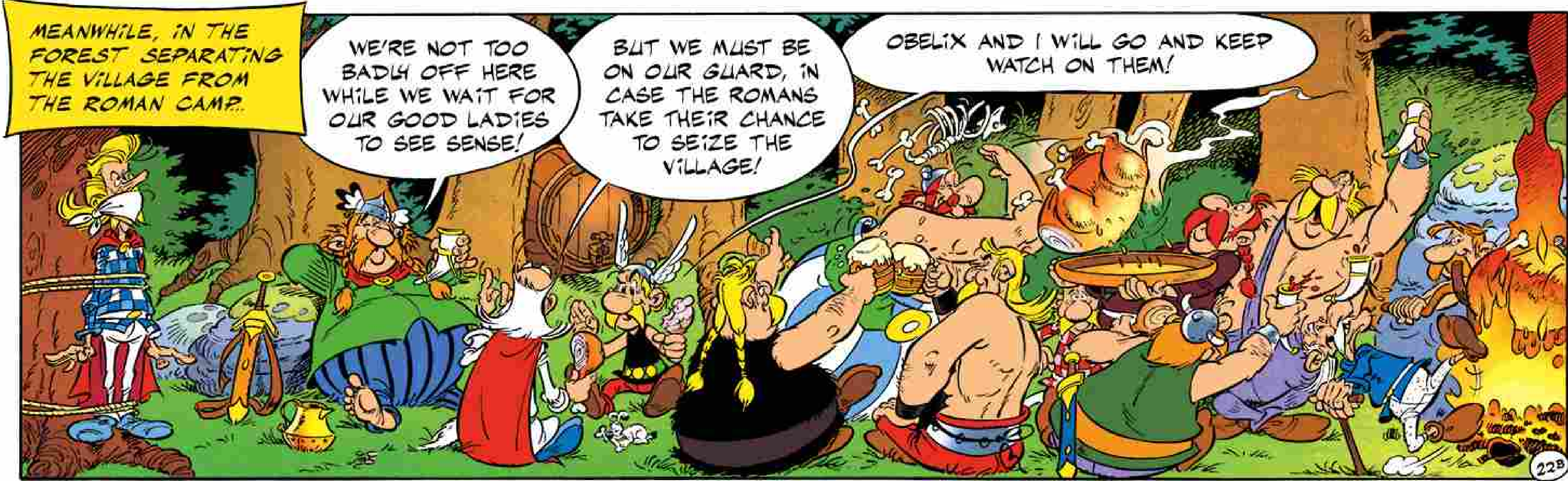
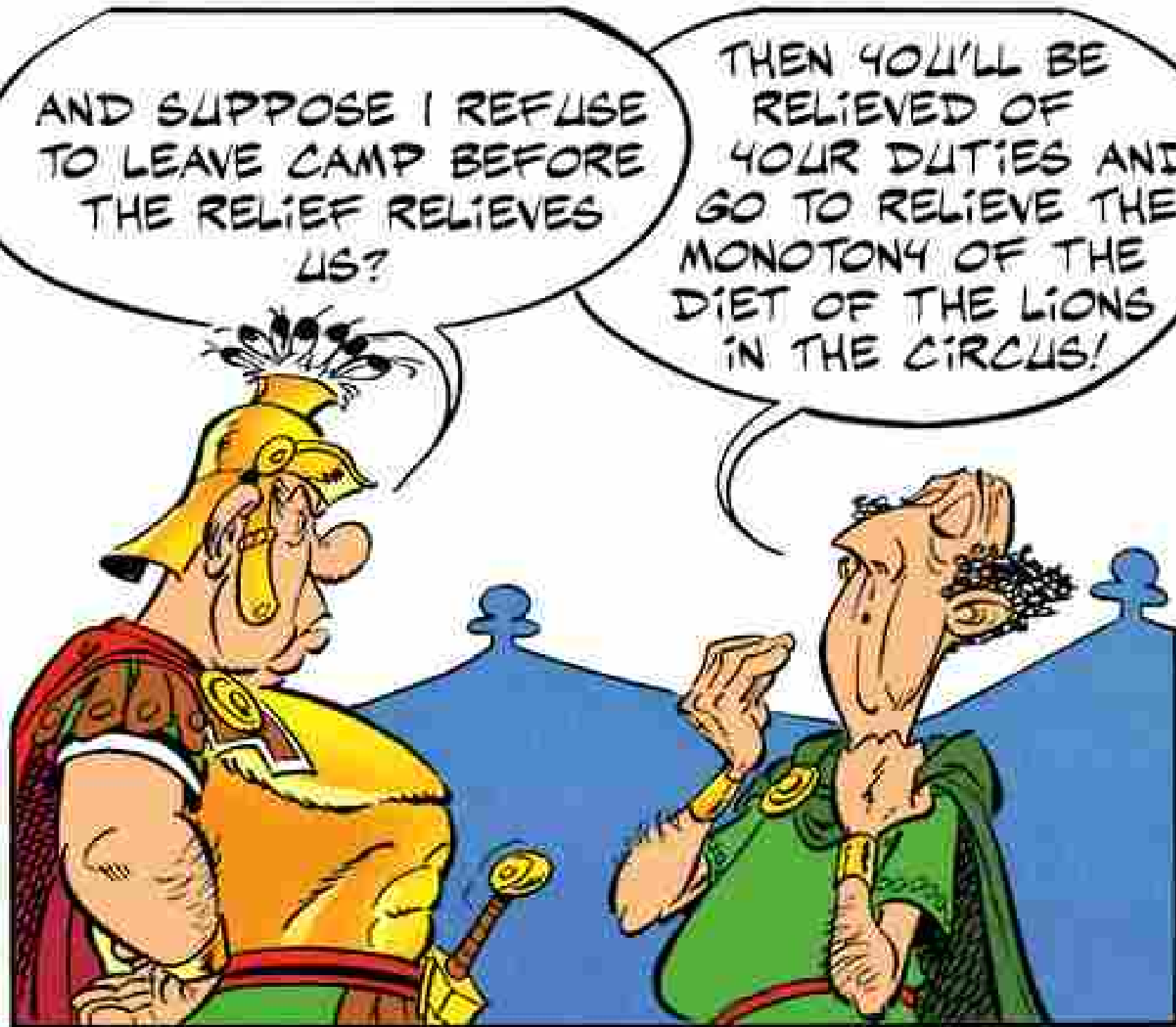
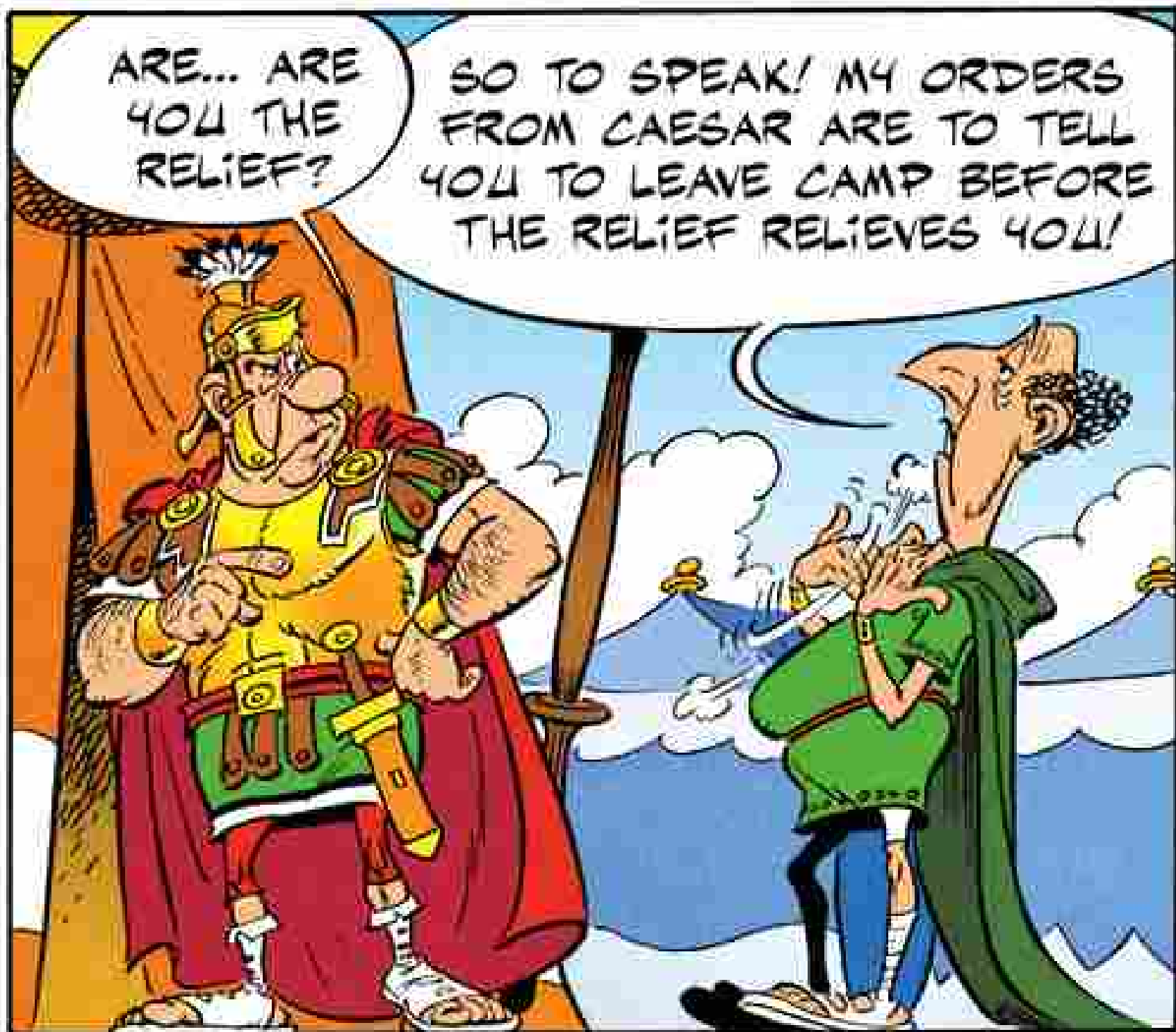
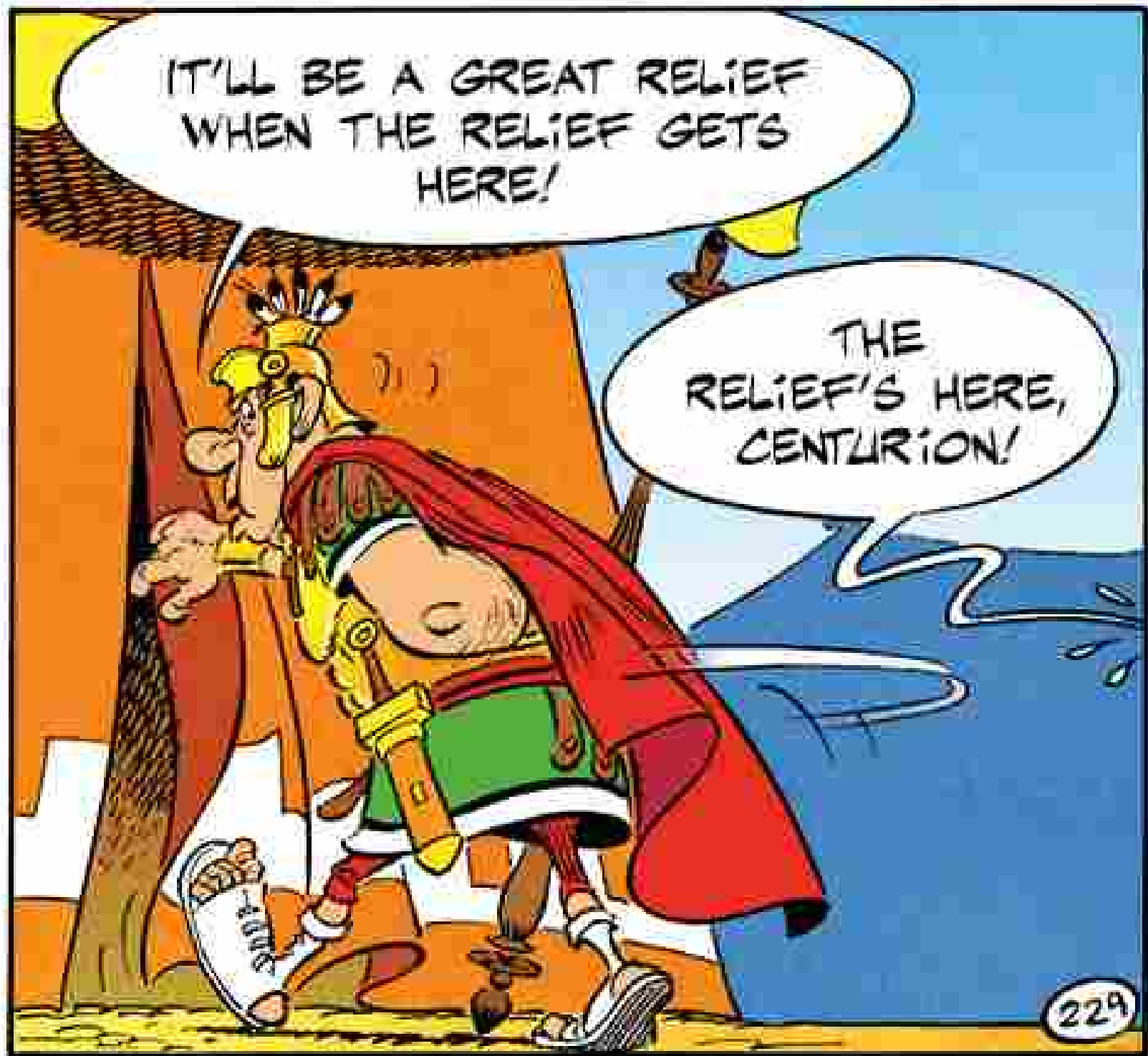
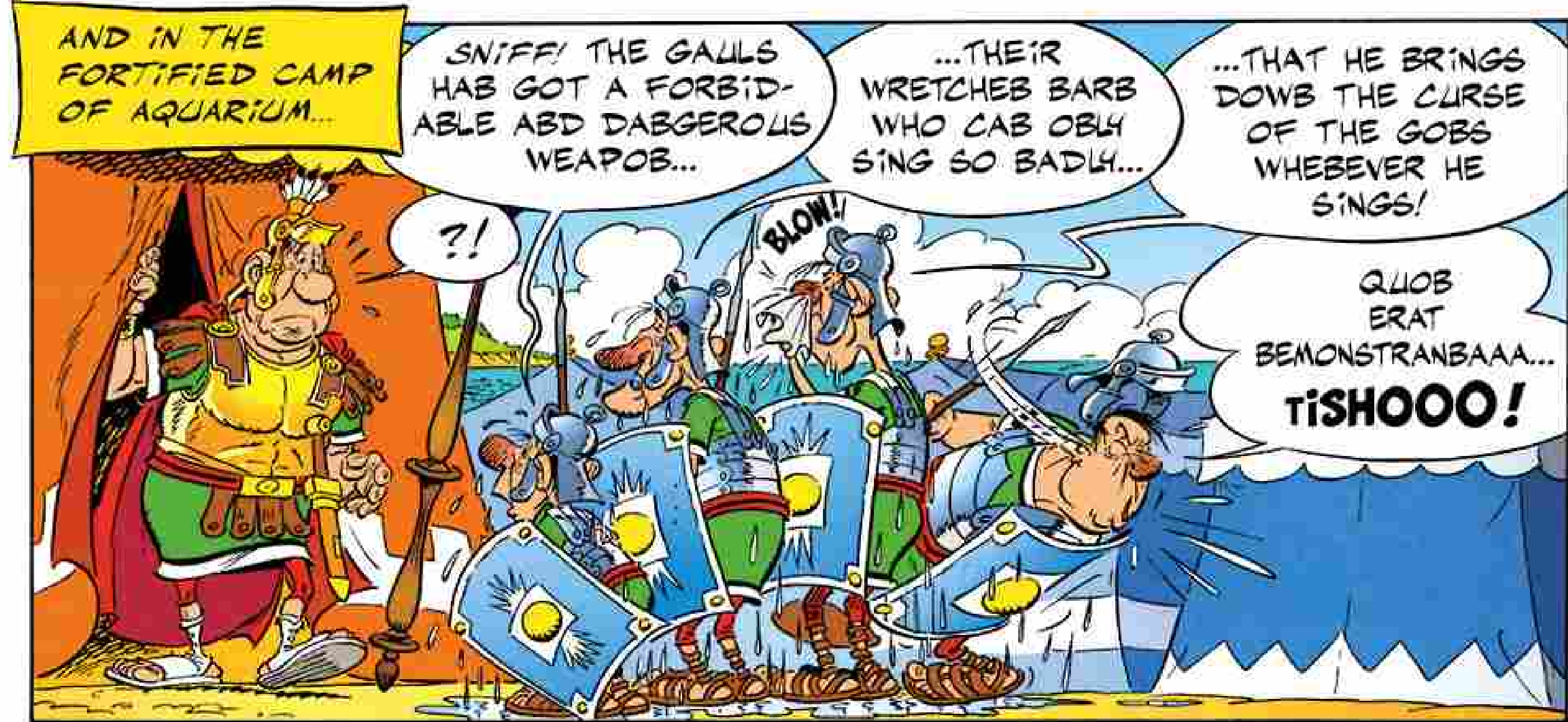
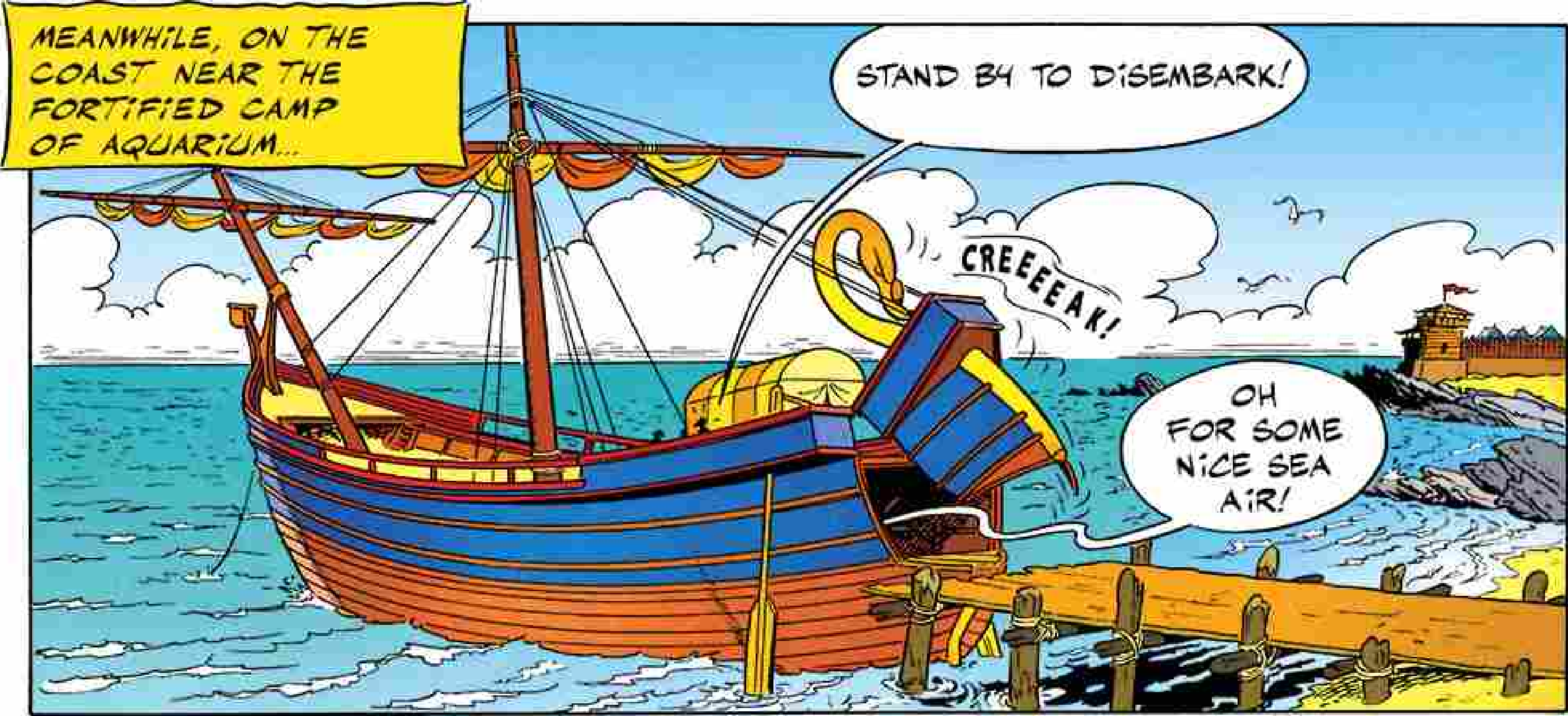
ASTERIX, I DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND
THIS SHOW OF HANDS BUSINESS!

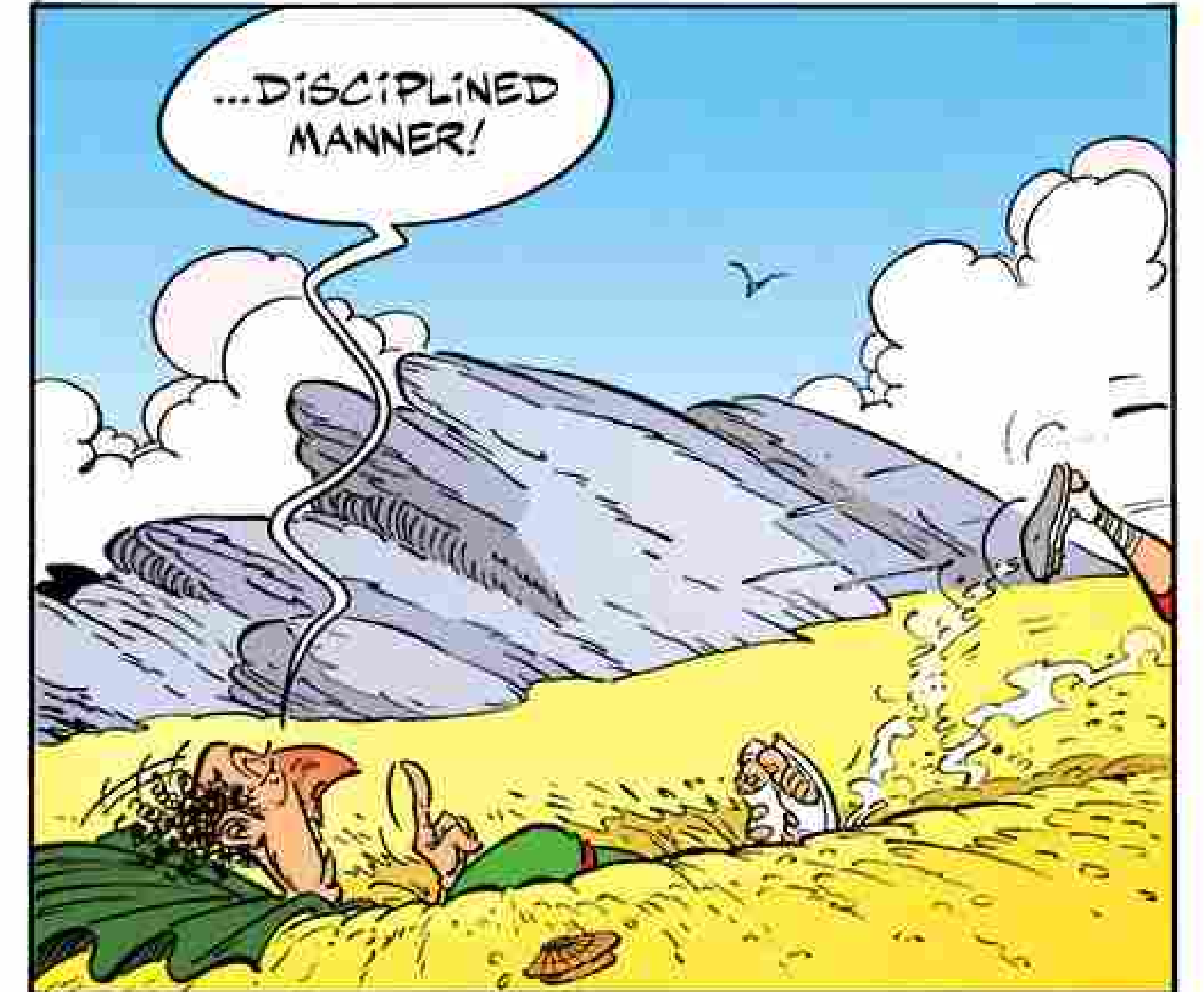
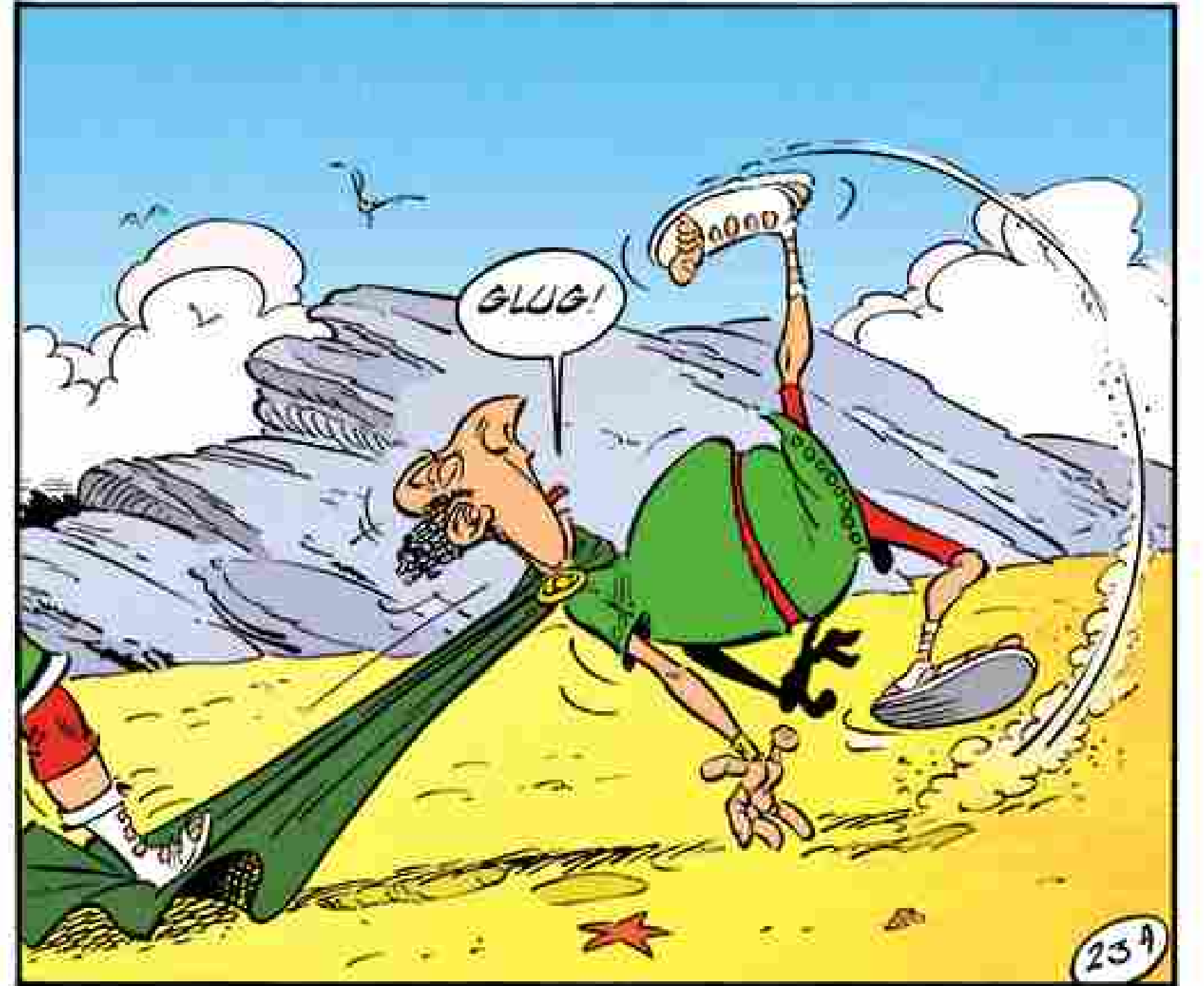
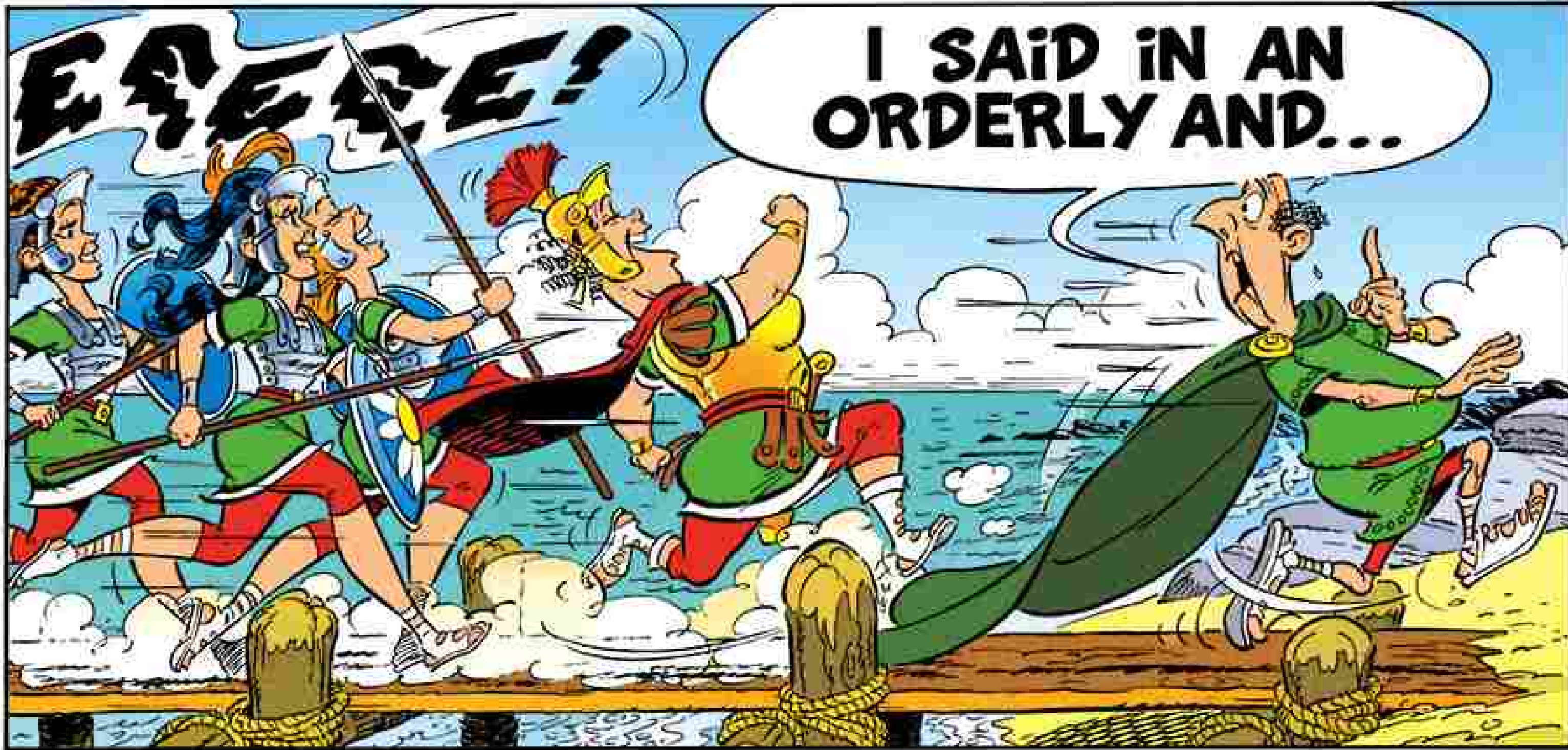
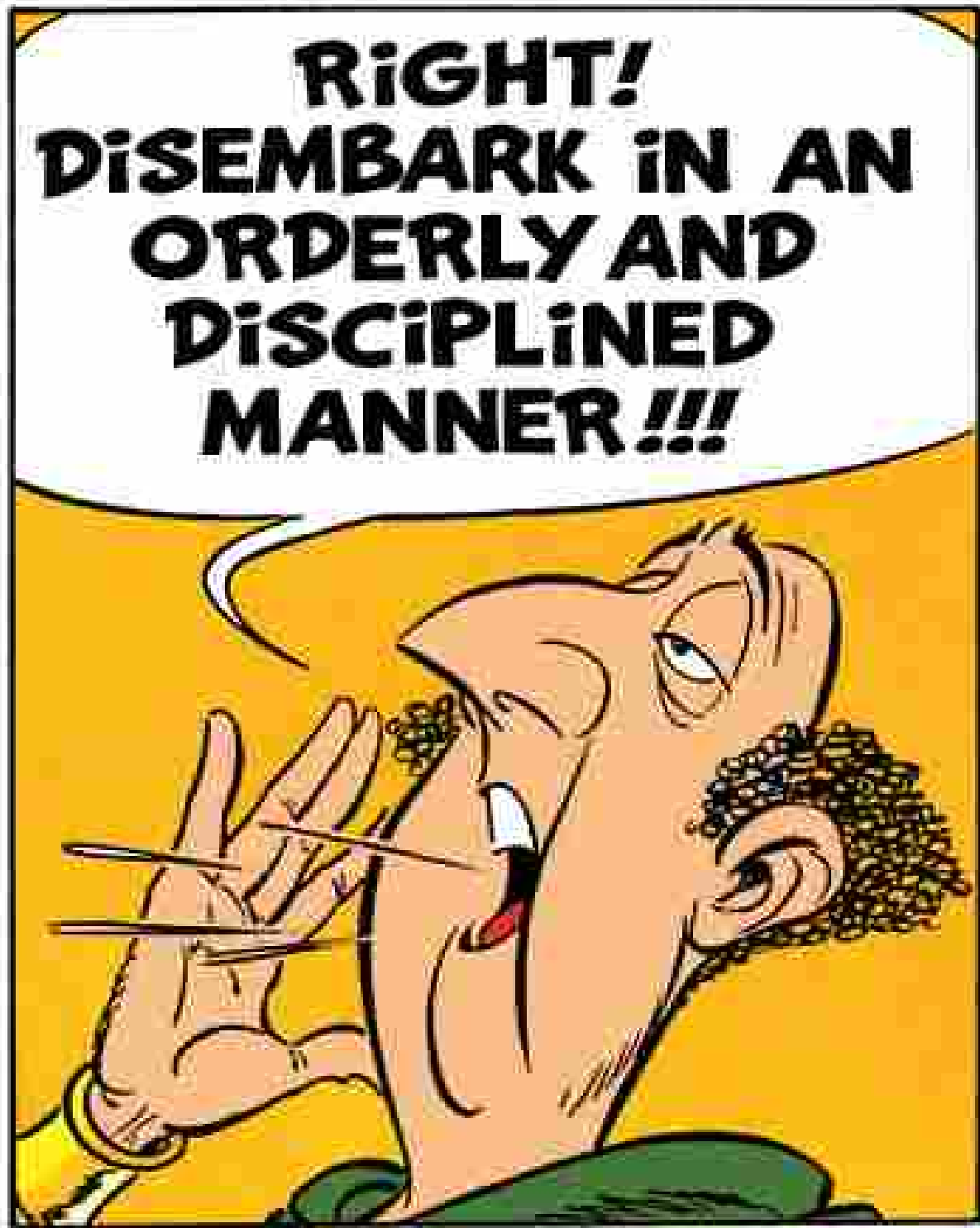
I DO! I CALL IT A
POOR SHOW, AND I'M
THROWING IN MY
HAND!

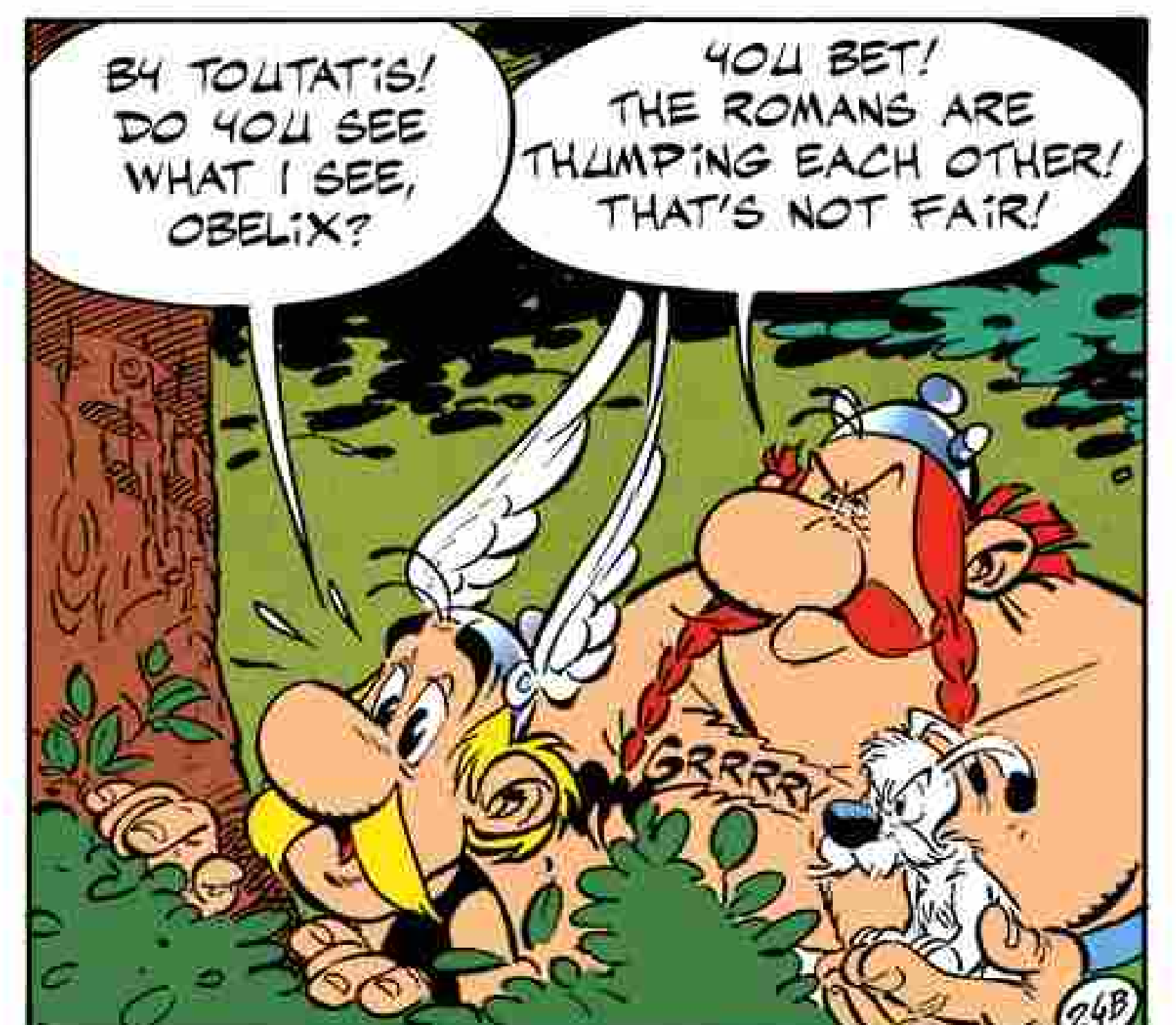
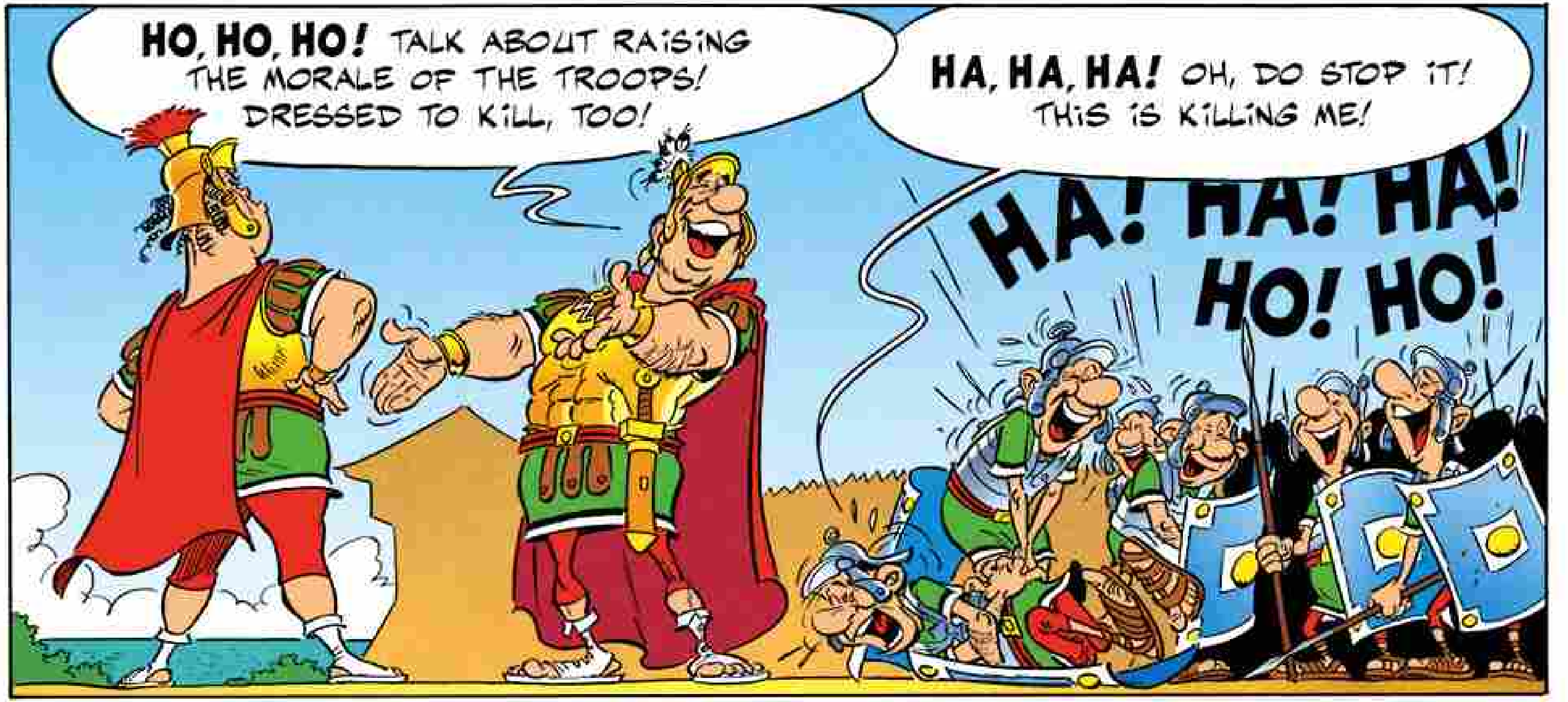


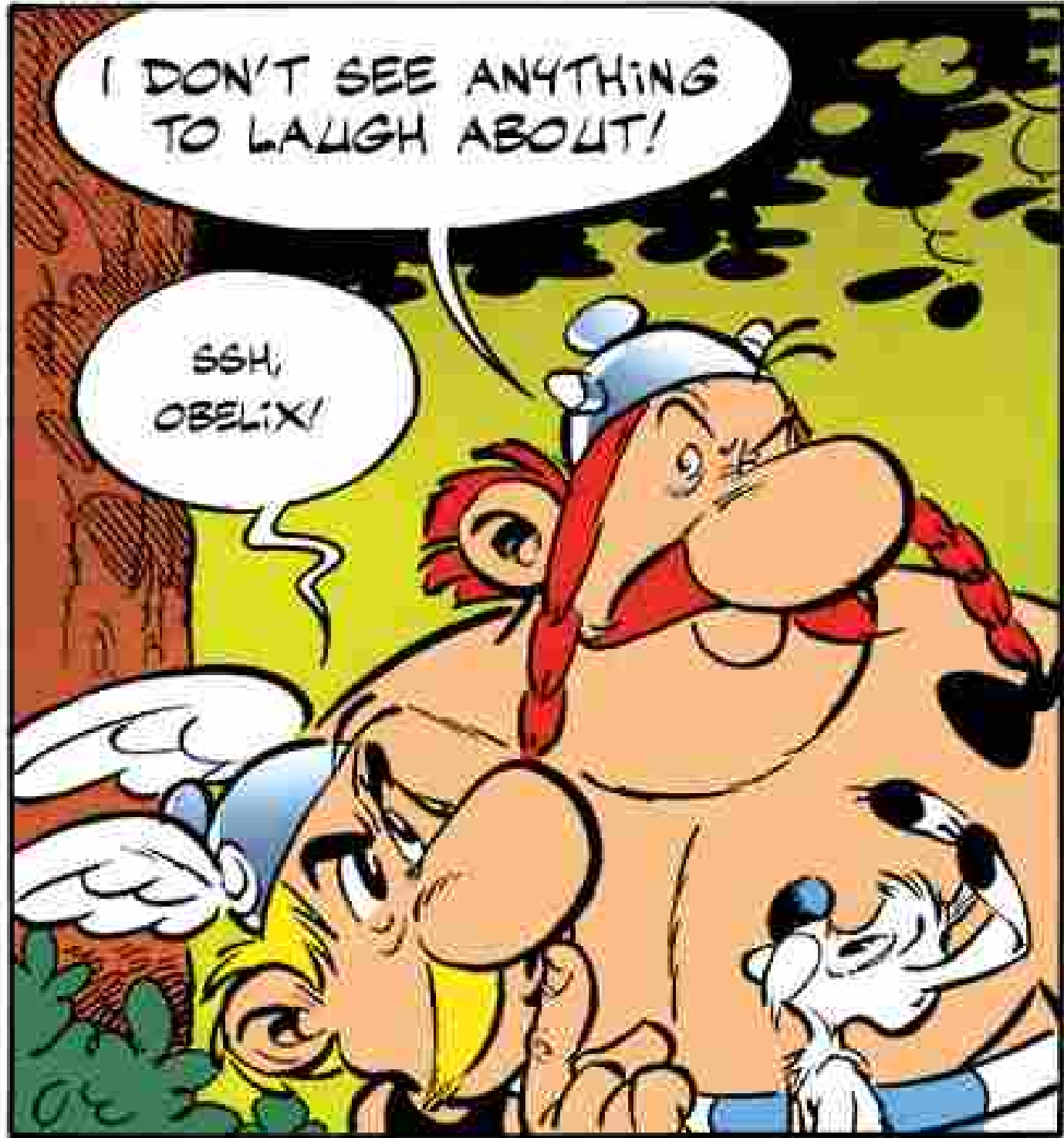


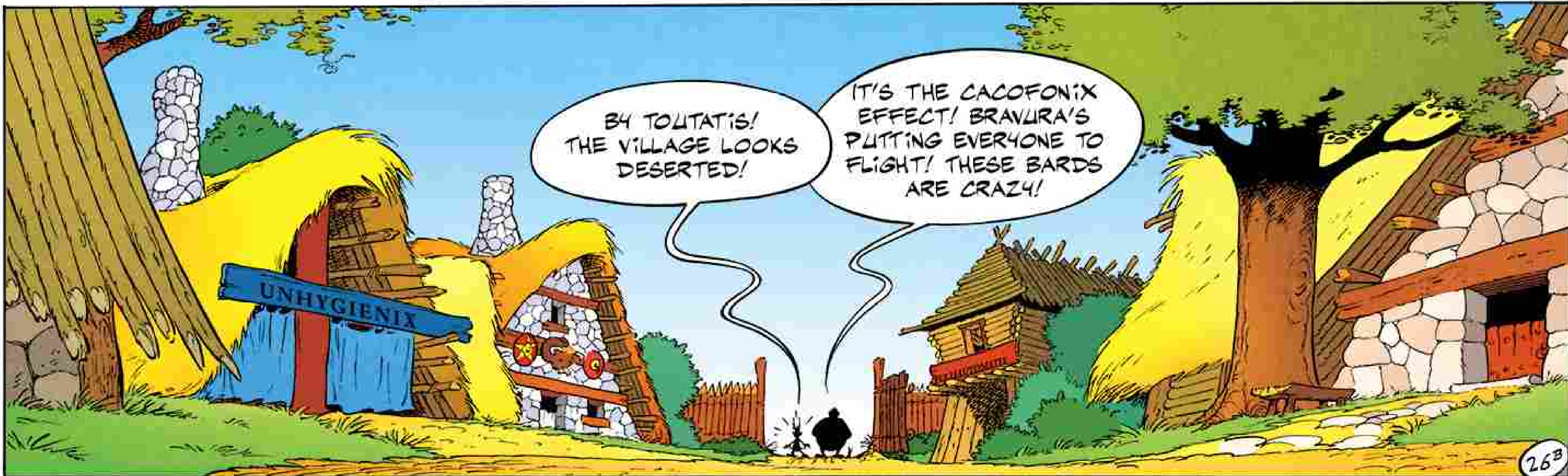
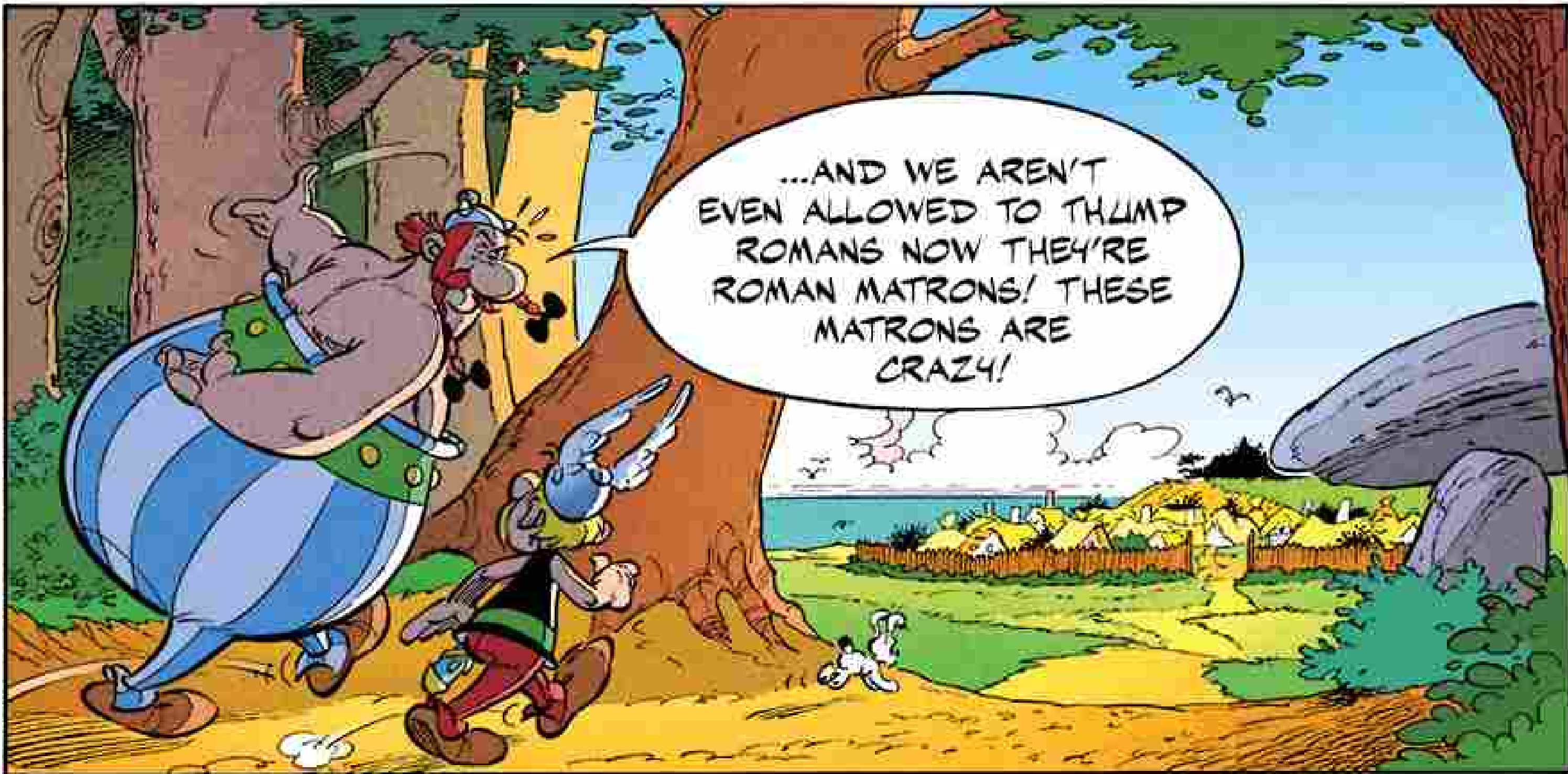
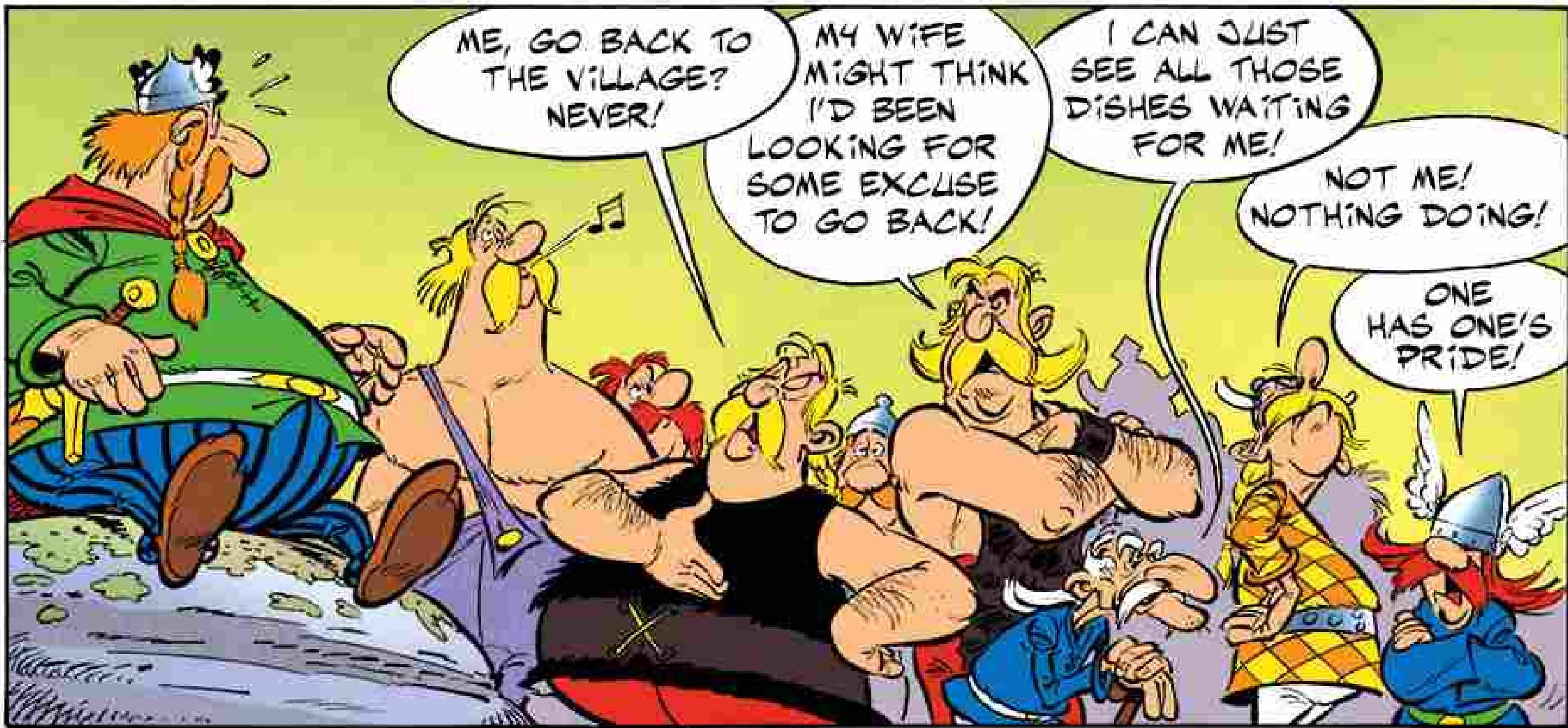


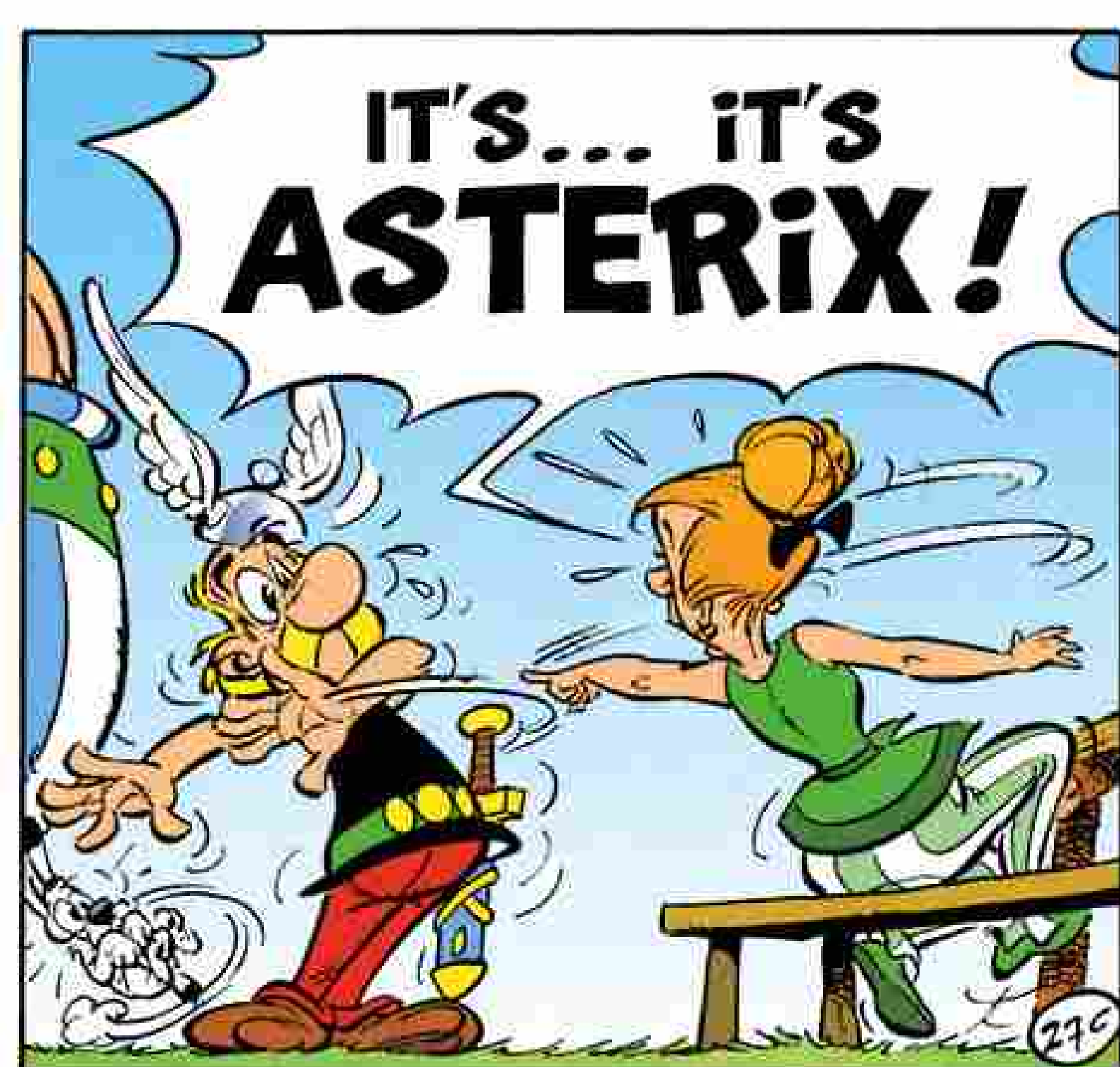


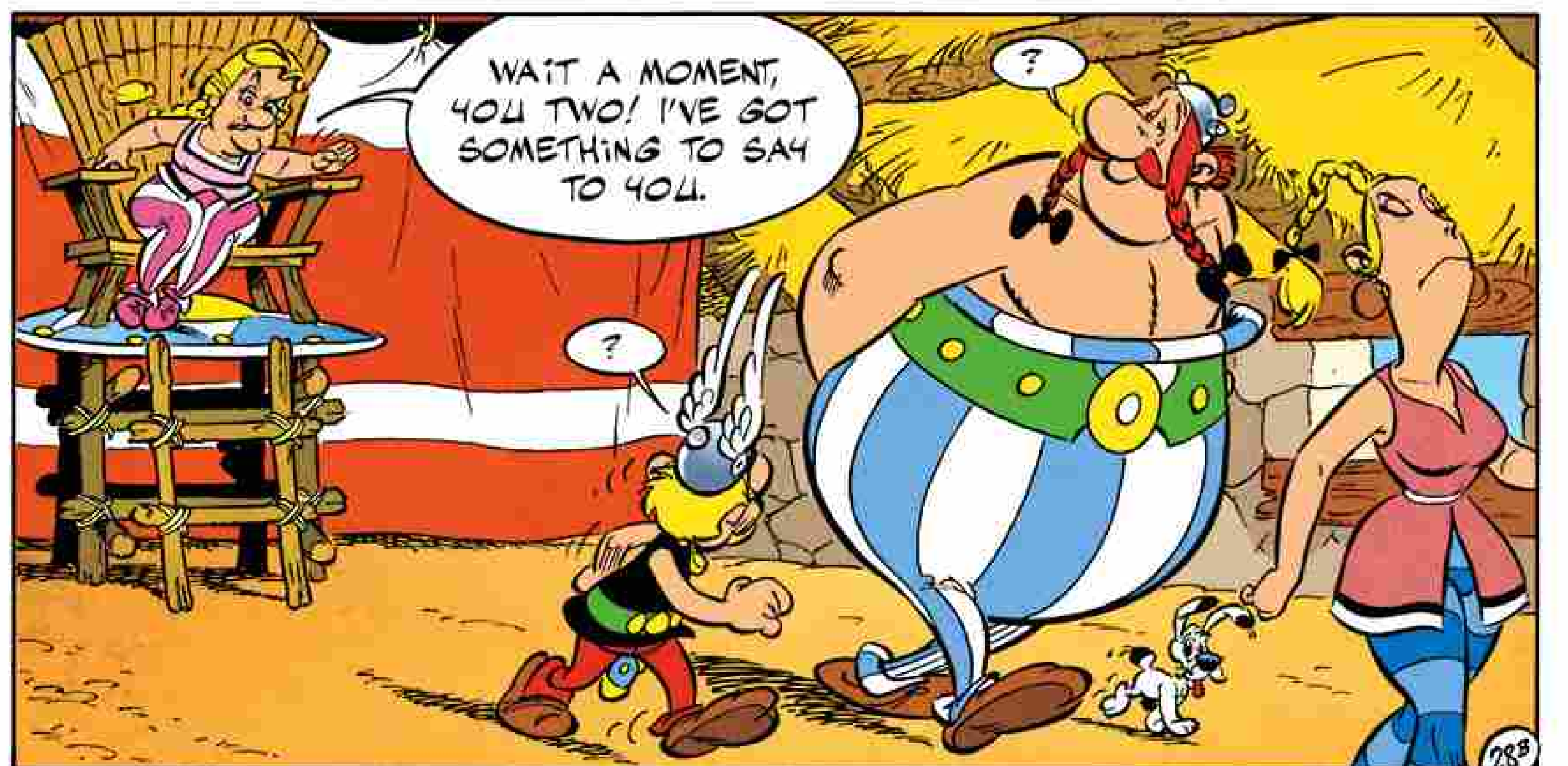
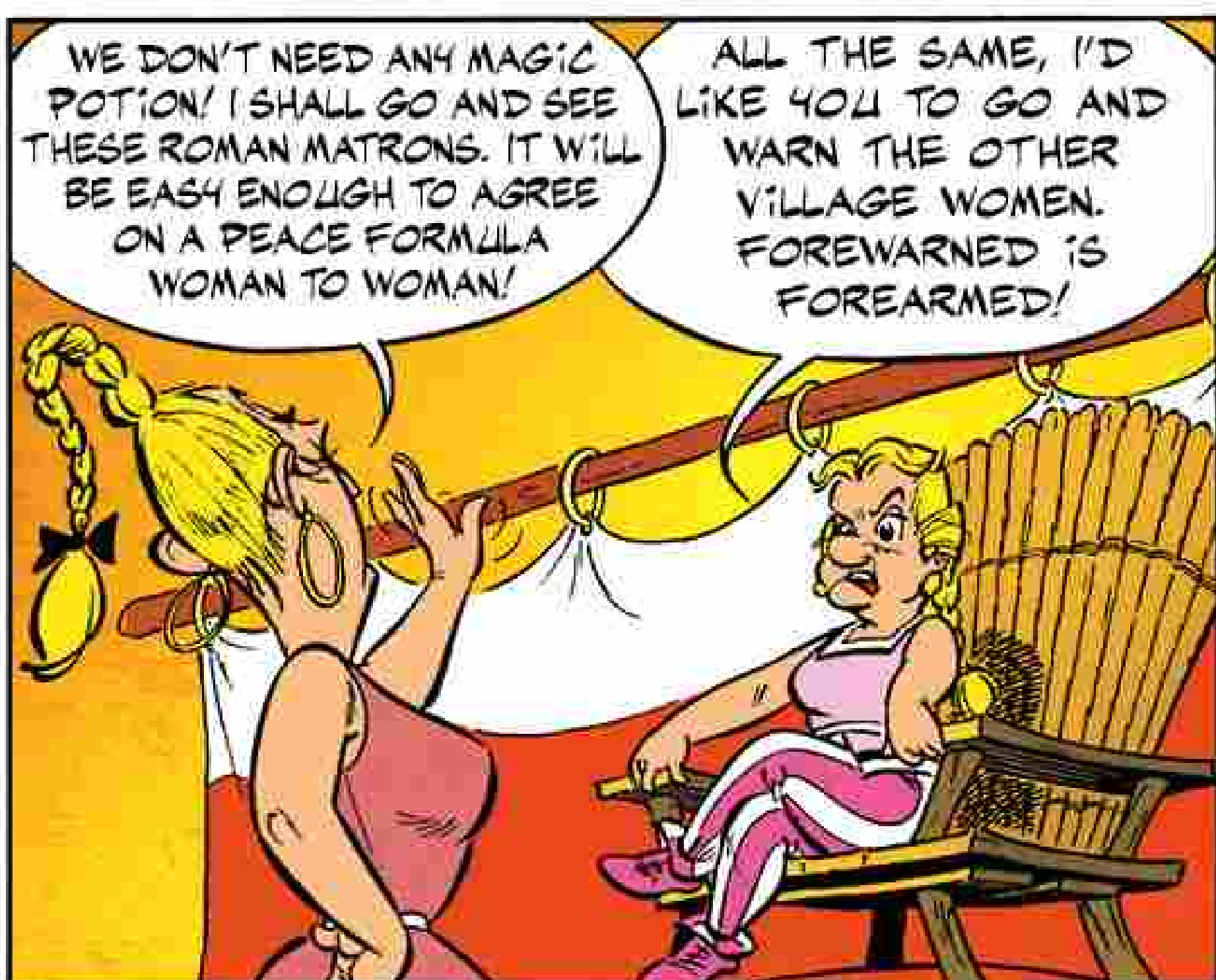
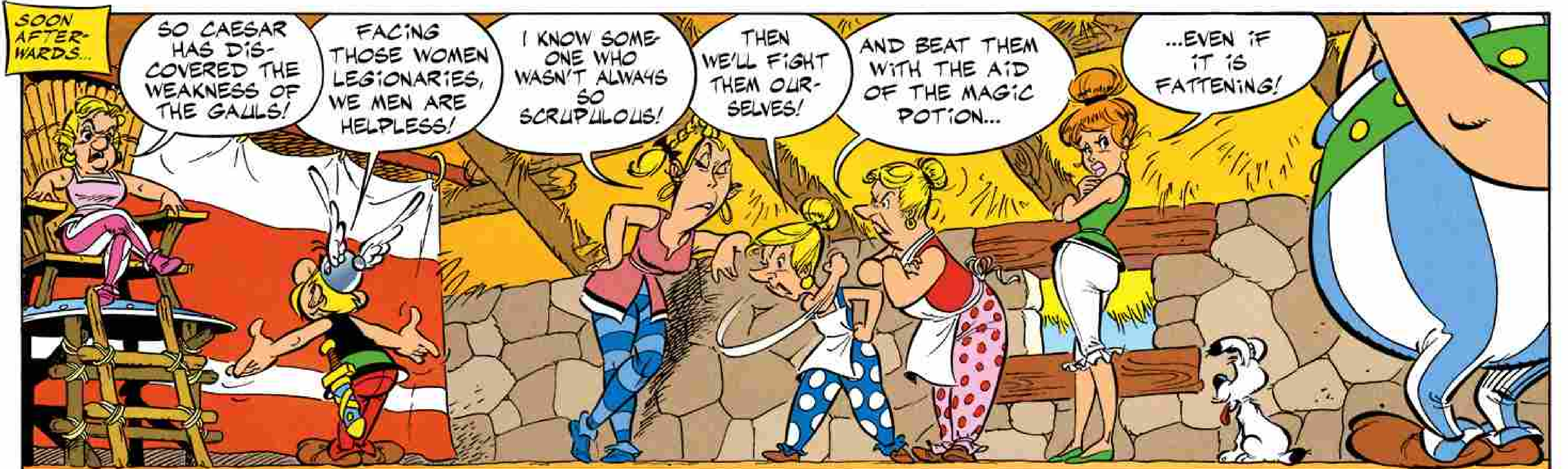
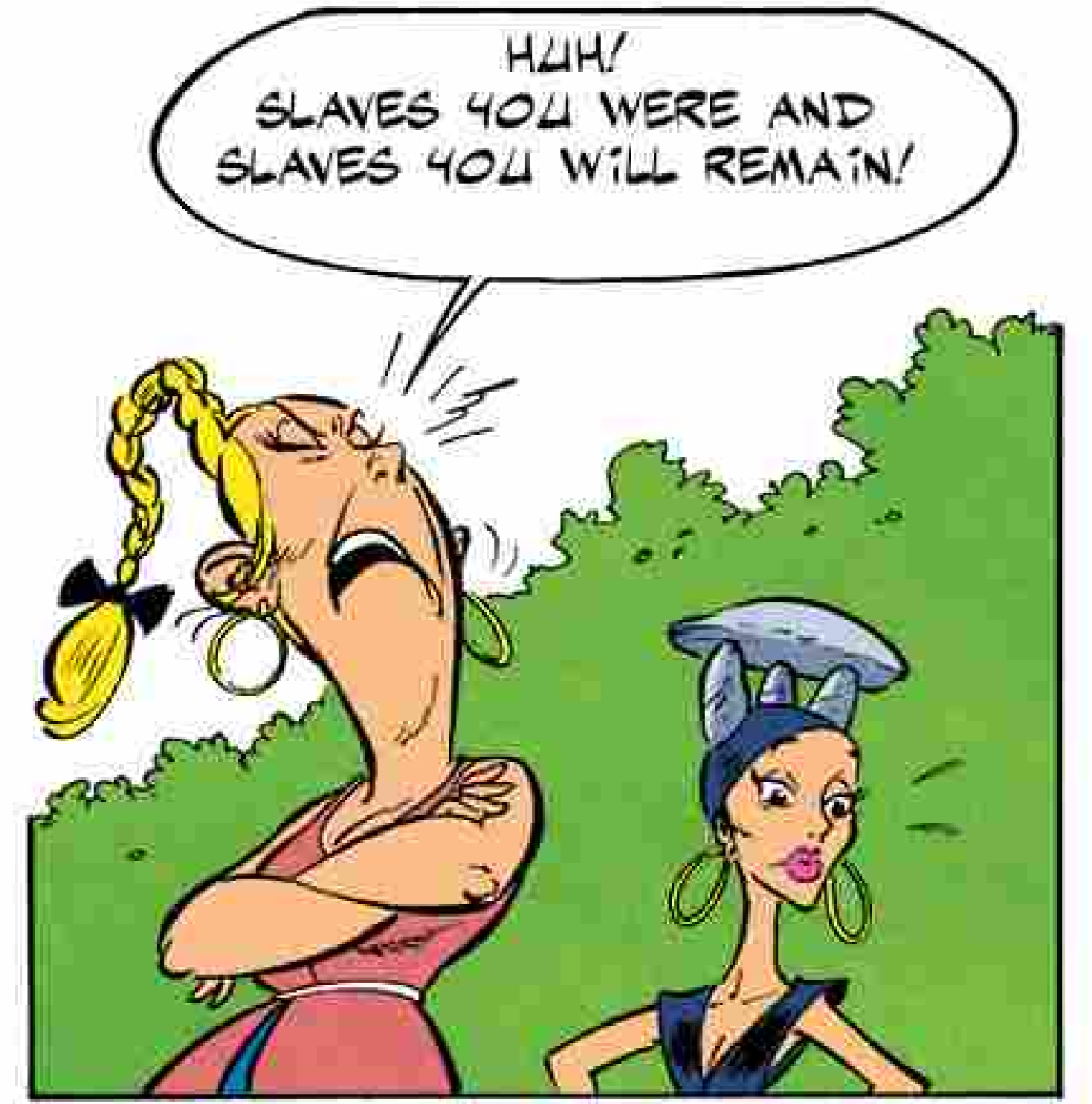


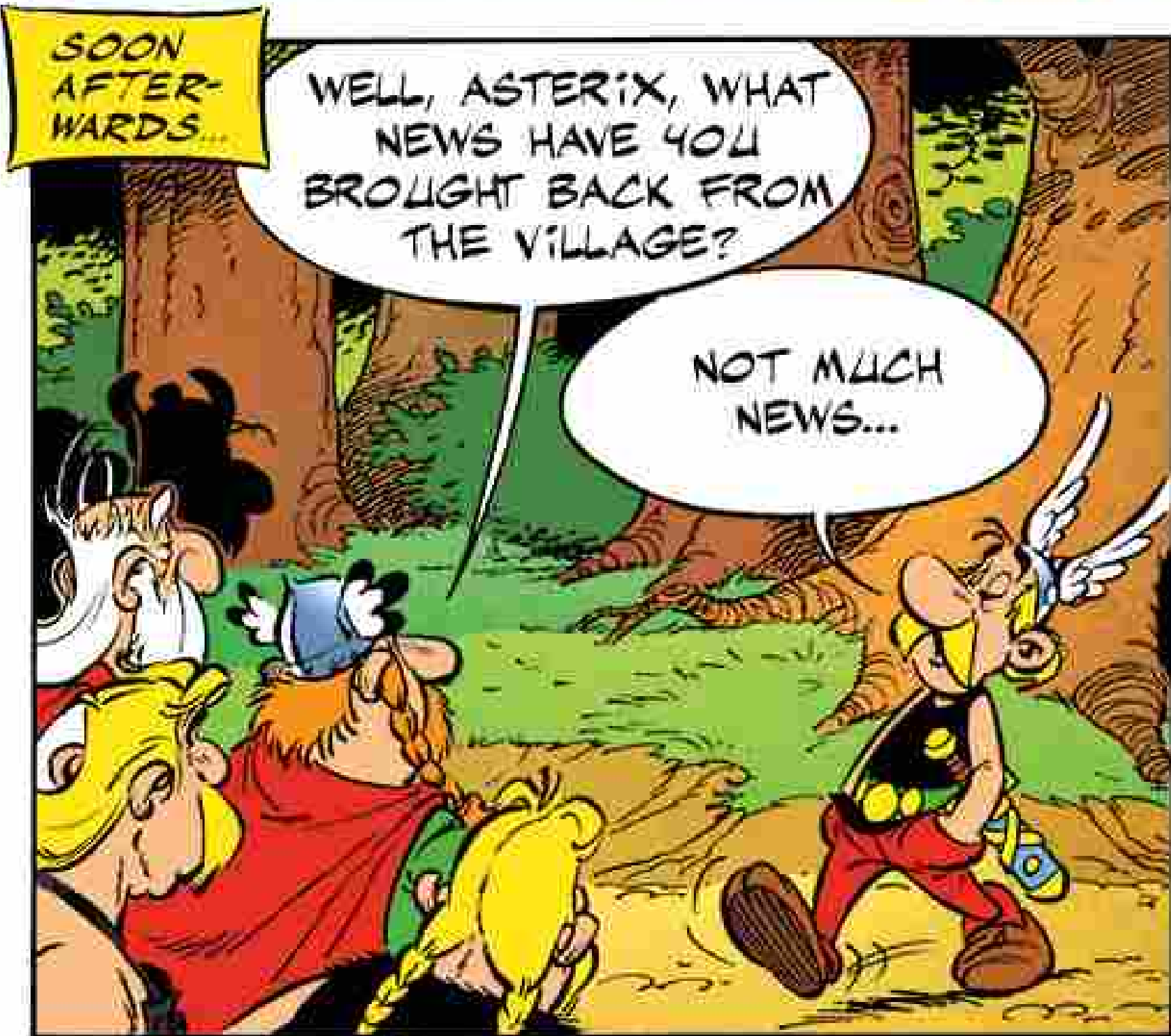
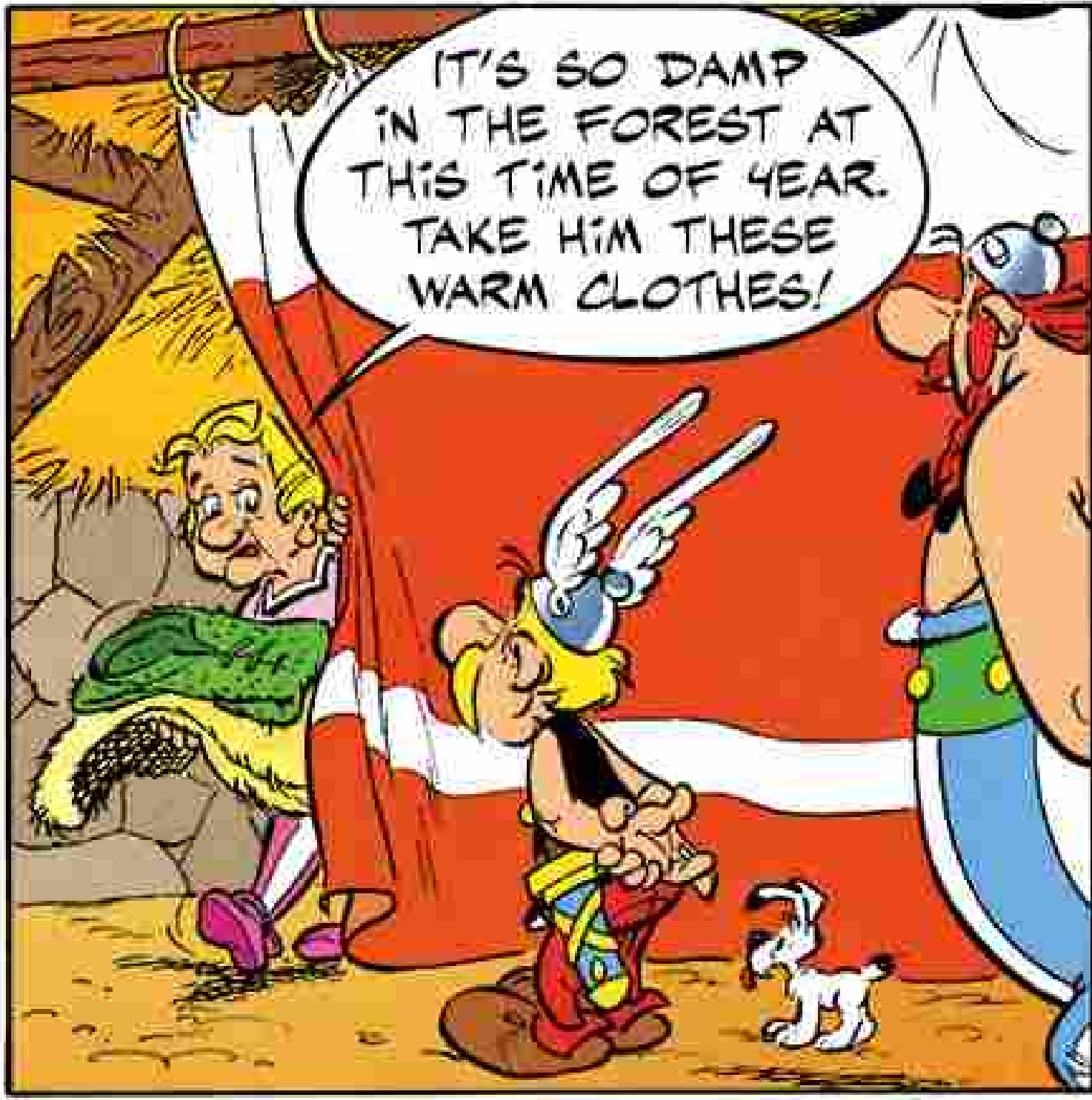




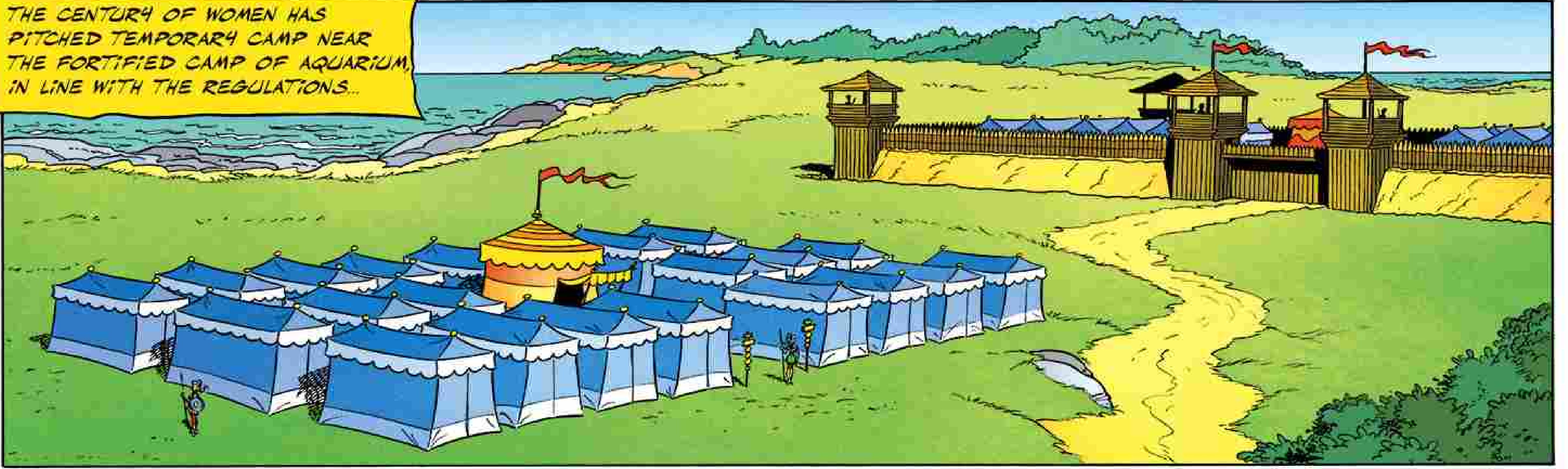








THE CENTURY OF WOMEN HAS
PITCHED TEMPORARY CAMP NEAR
THE FORTIFIED CAMP OF AQUARIUM,
IN LINE WITH THE REGULATIONS...



...SLIGHTLY
MODIFIED HERE
AND THERE!

JUST
WHAT
IS
THIS?

THIS PRINT?
IT'S A FAST DYE!
GUARANTEED NOT
TO RUN IN THE
WASH!



SOME OF THE DIS-
GRUNTLED MEN CONFINED
TO BARRACKS NEXT DOOR
RELIEVE THEIR FEELINGS
ABOUT THEIR RELIEF.

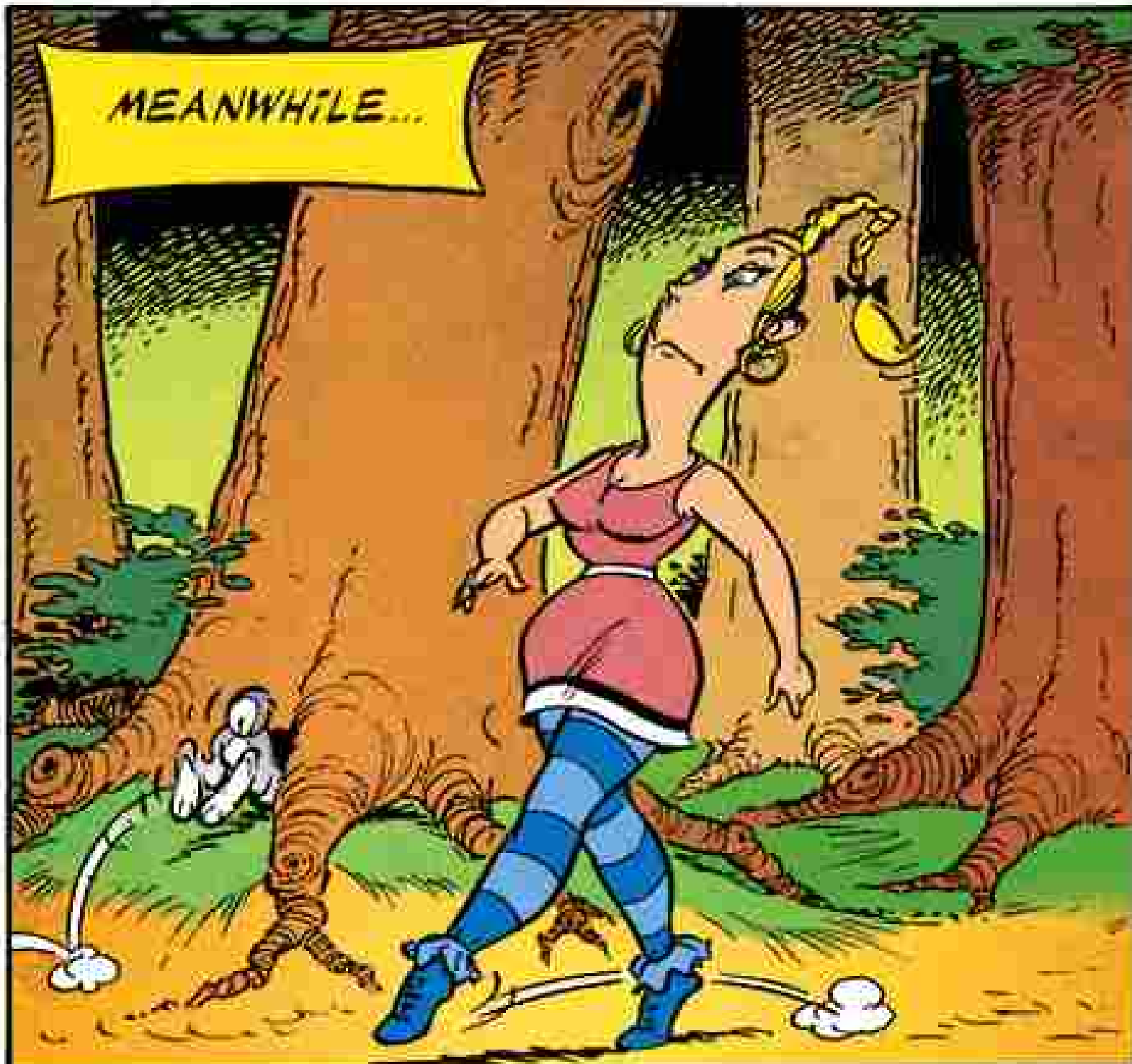
IF WOMEN
CAN JOIN THE
LEGIONS NOW, WHAT
USE ARE WE
GOING TO BE?

I COULD TELL YOU! I
WOULDN'T EVEN MIND BEING
A DOMESTICUS* OVER IN
THAT CAMP!



* SERVANT

MEANWHILE...

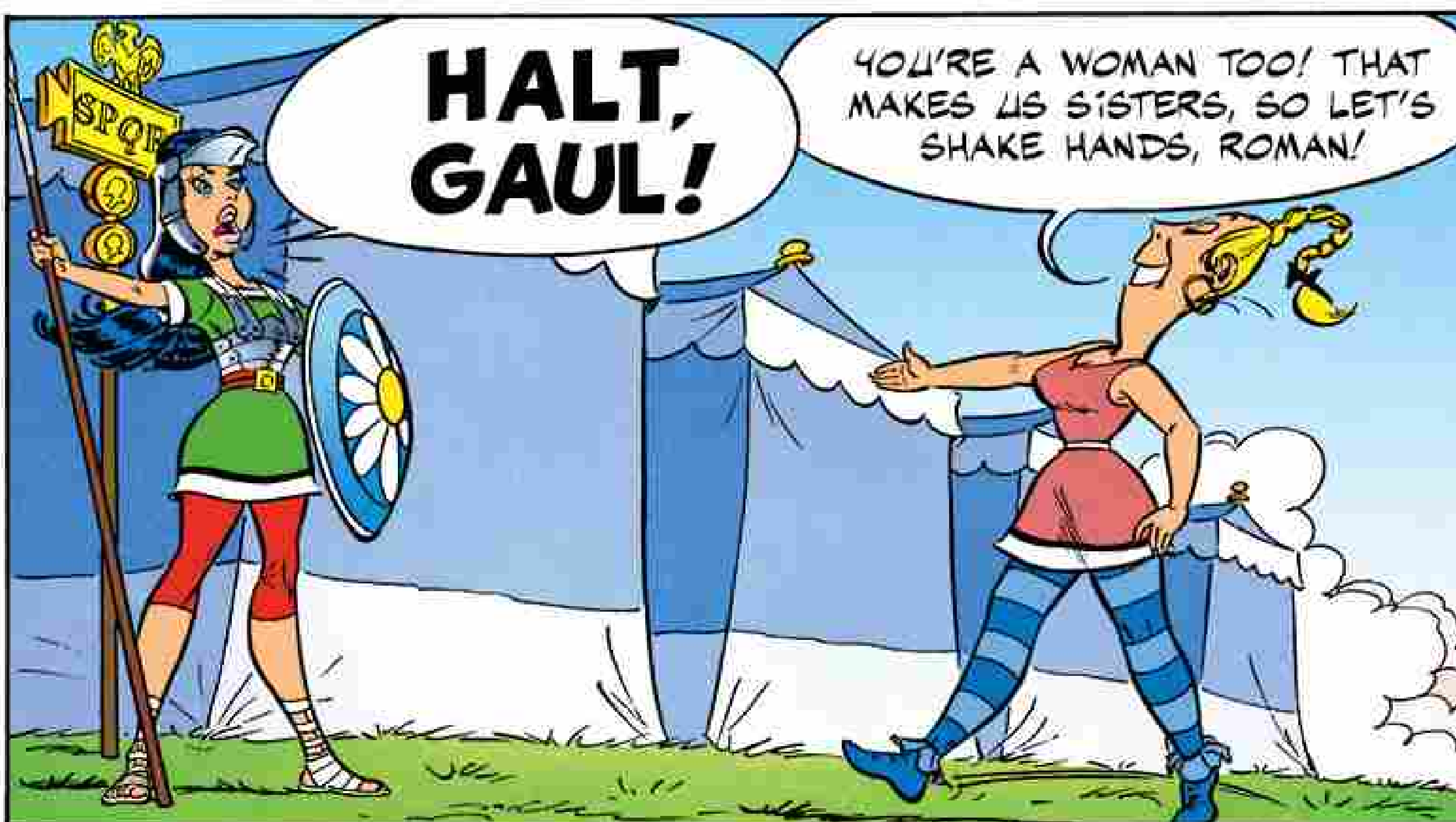


BRABURA! SHE
MUST BE GOING TO
THE ROMAN CAMP!
LET'S FOLLOW HER
DISCREETLY!



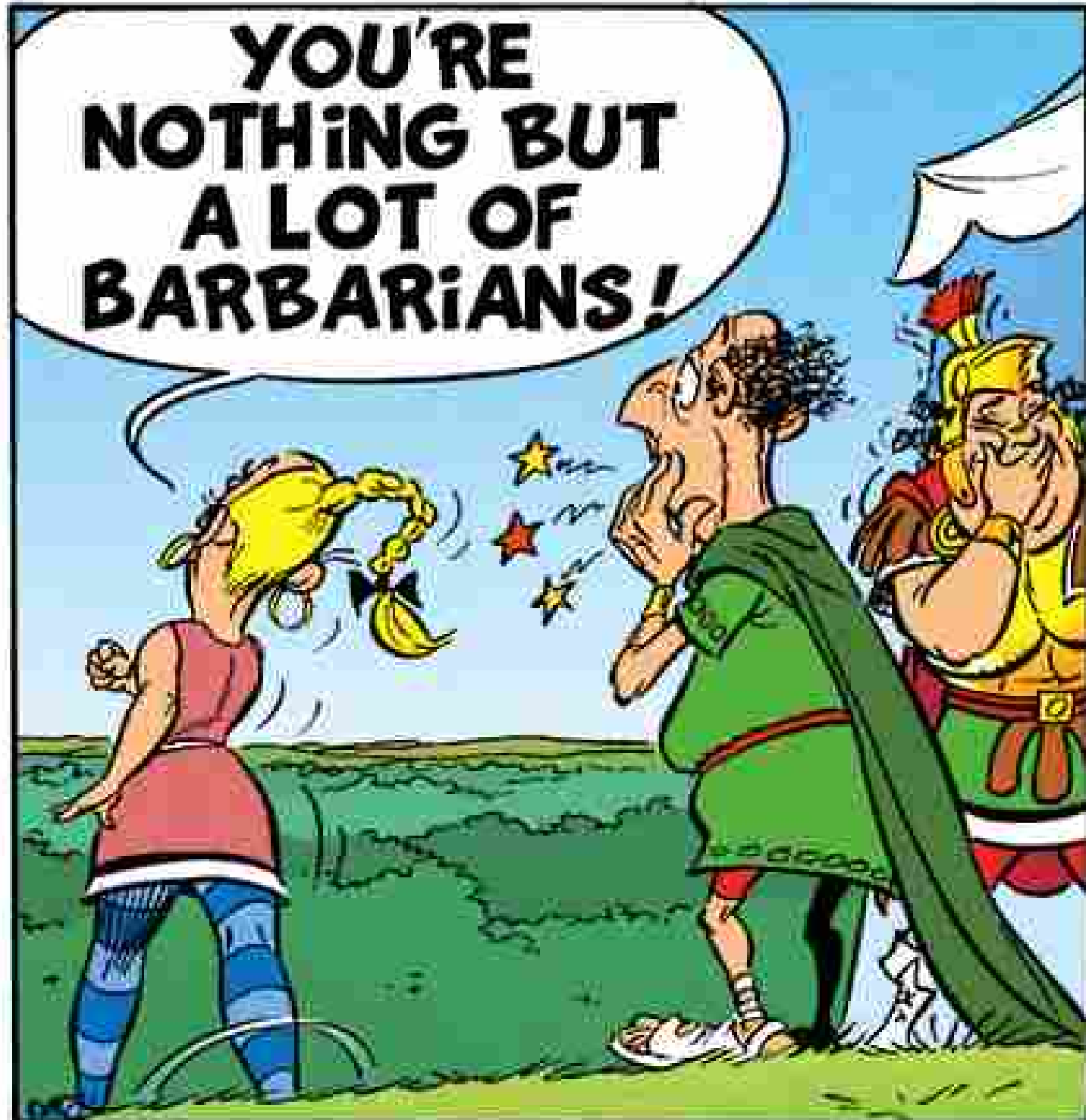
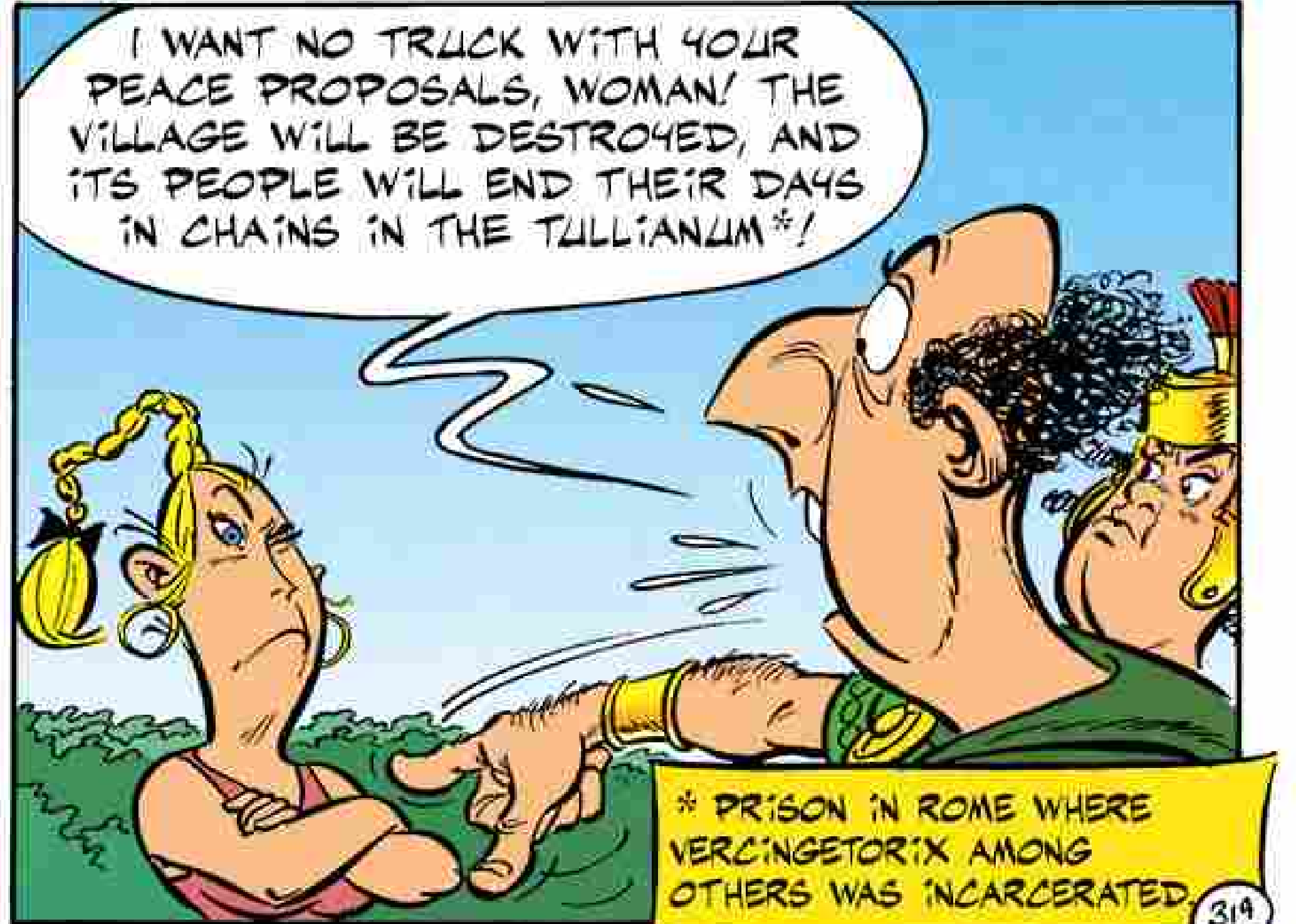
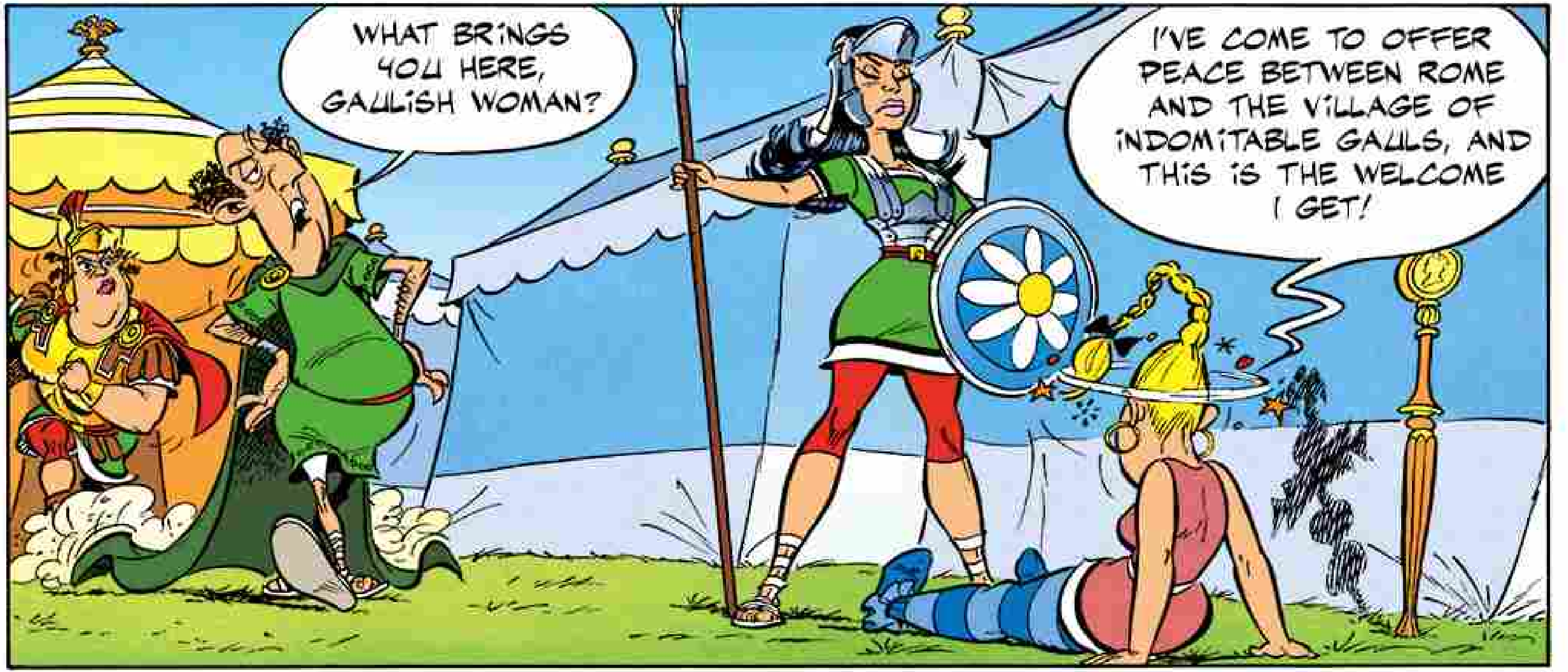
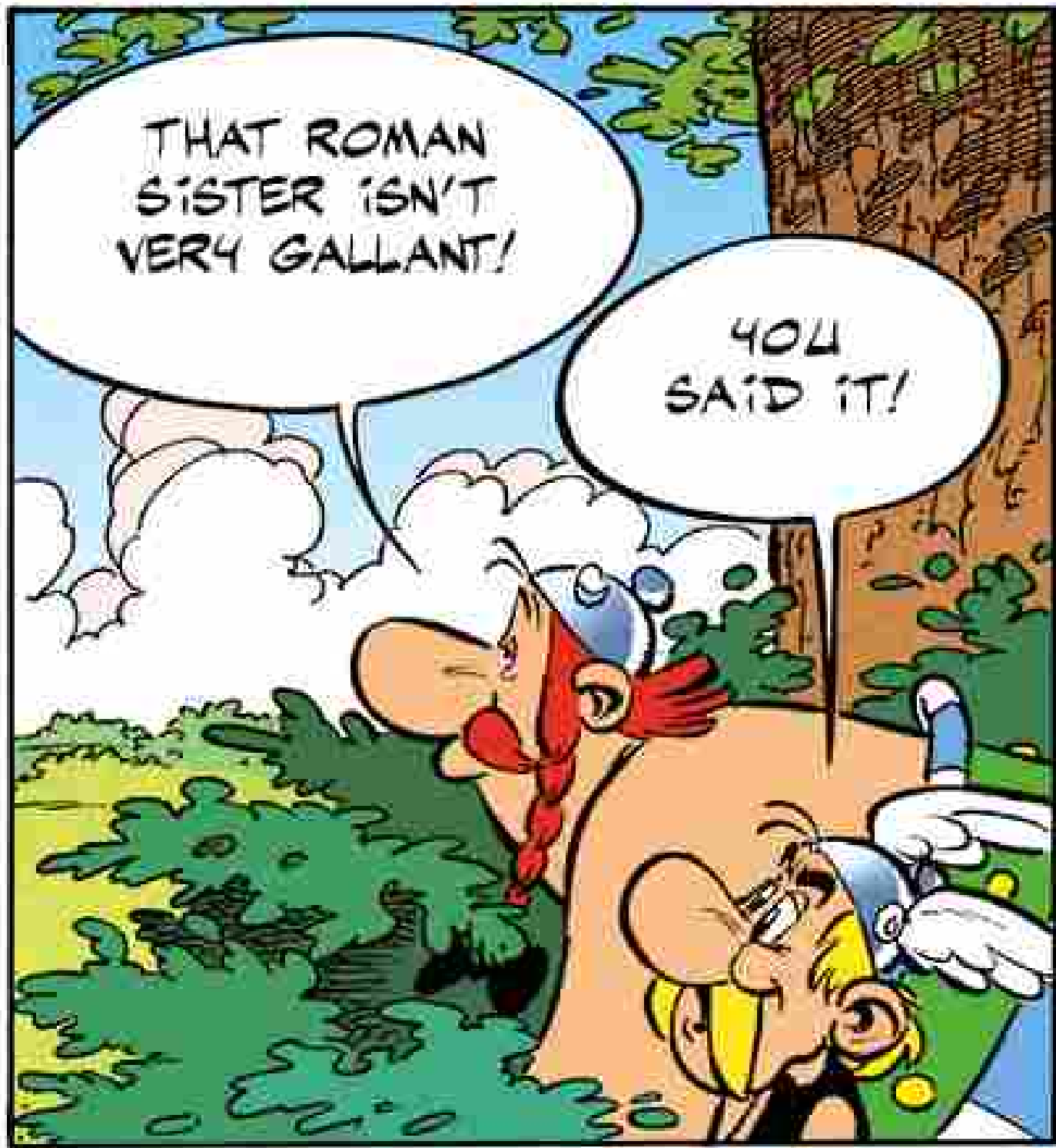
HALT,
GAUL!

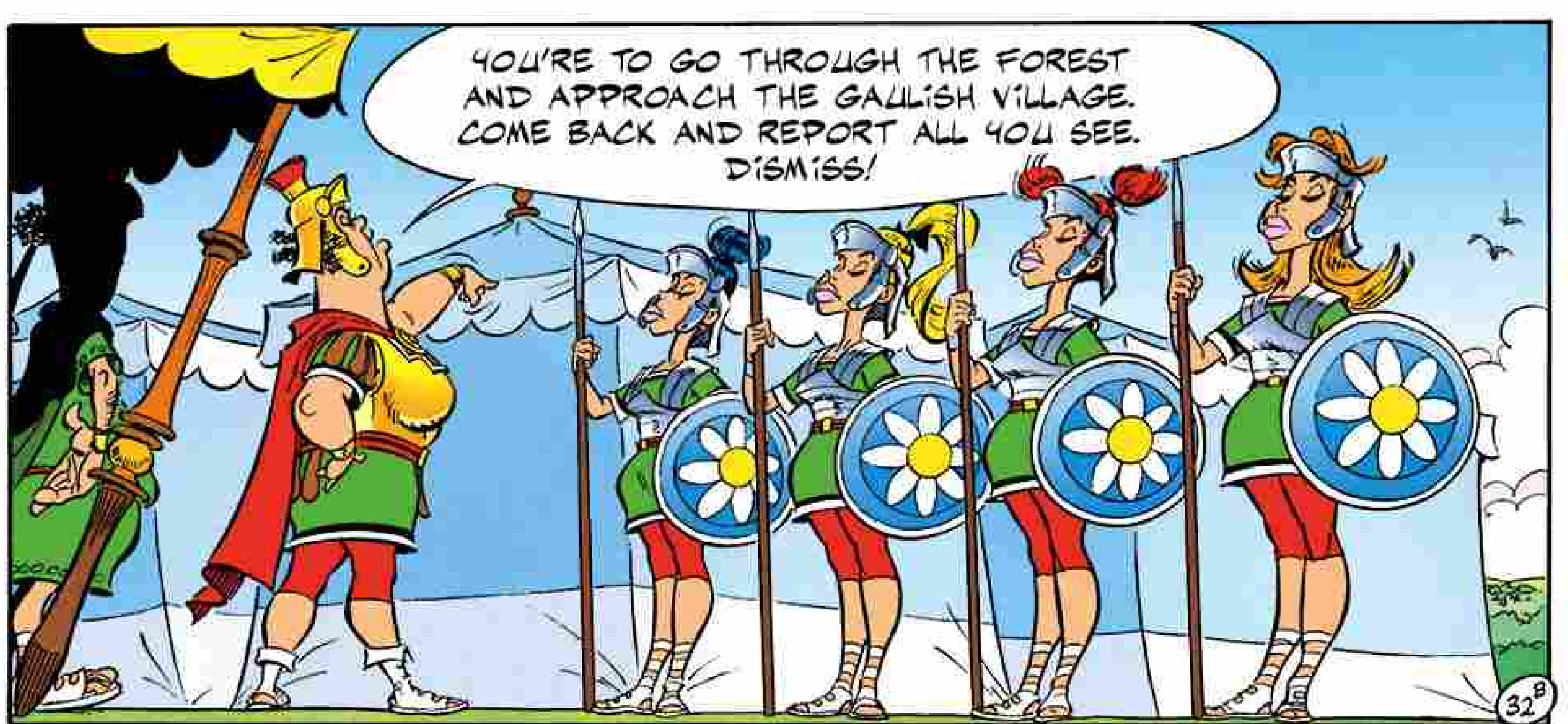
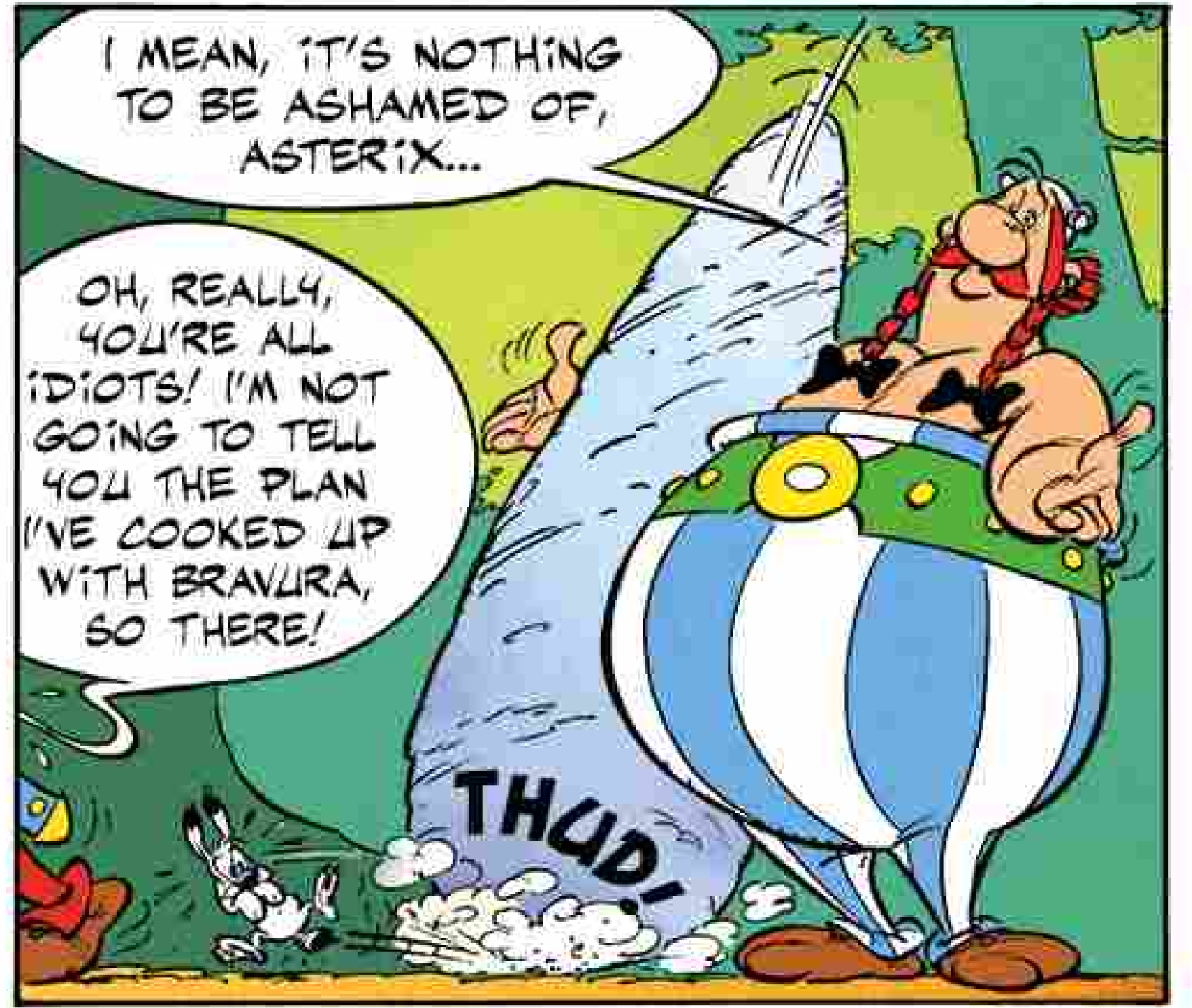
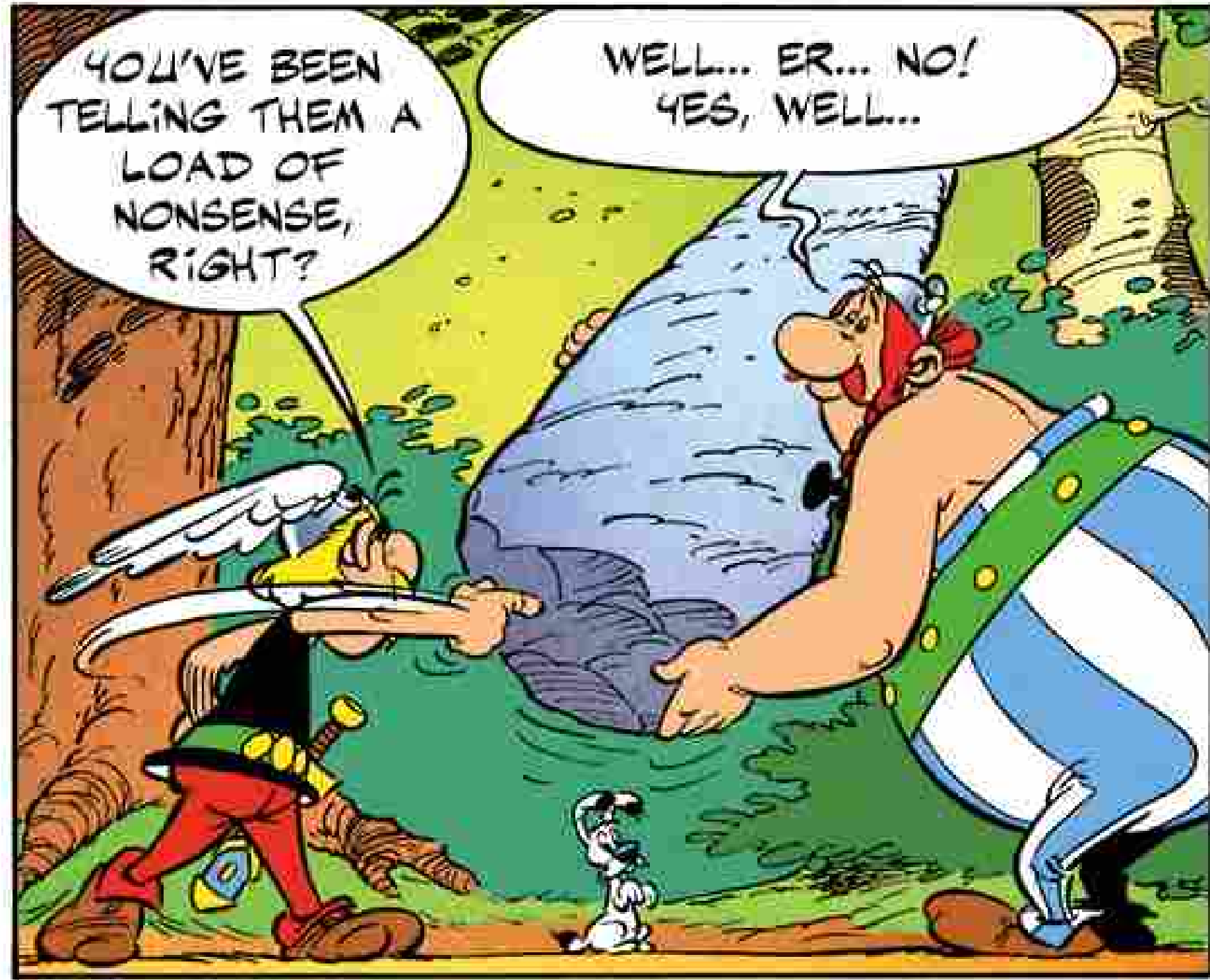
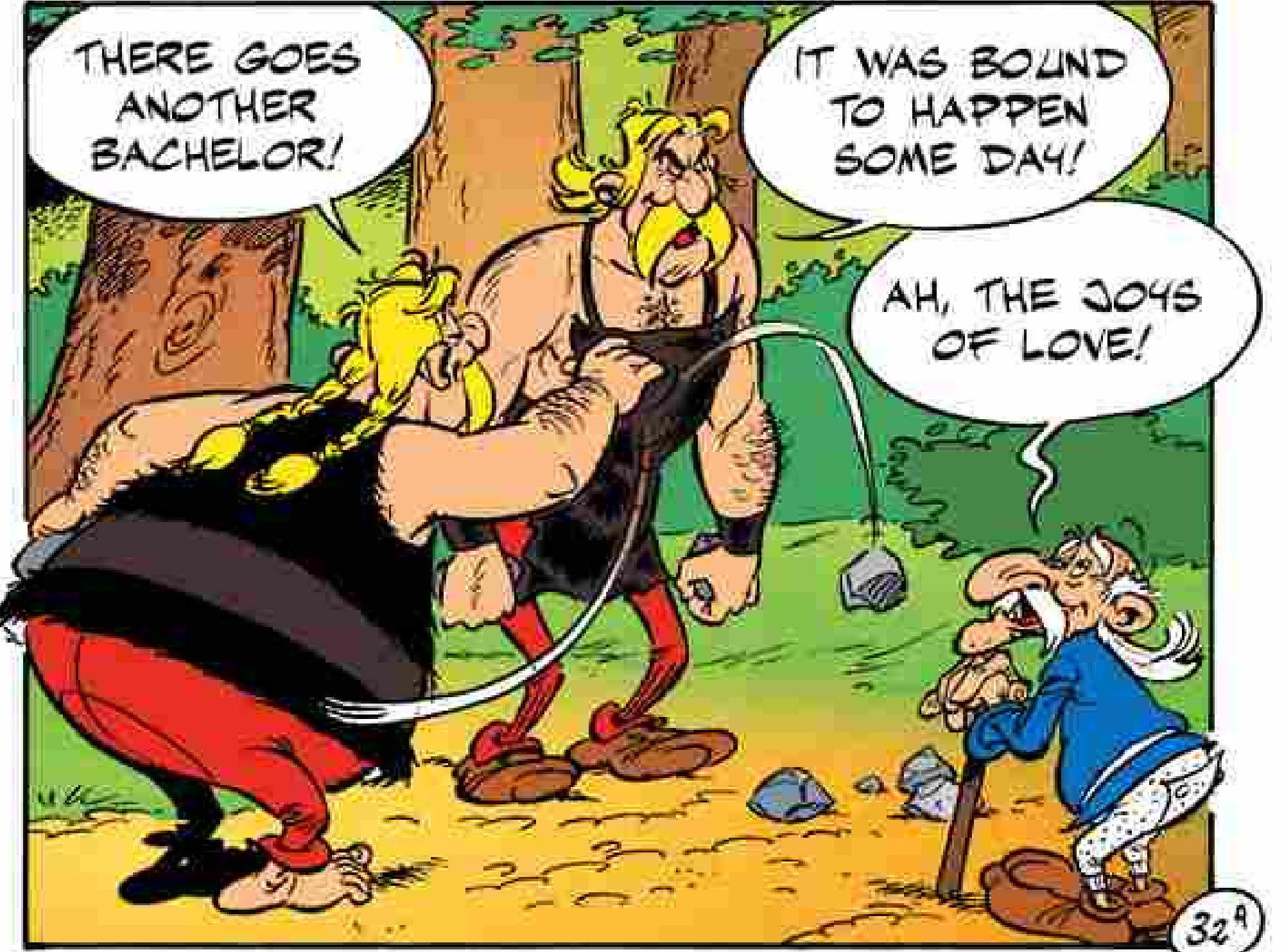
YOU'RE A WOMAN TOO! THAT
MAKES US SISTERS, SO LET'S
SHAKE HANDS, ROMAN!



TCHAC!





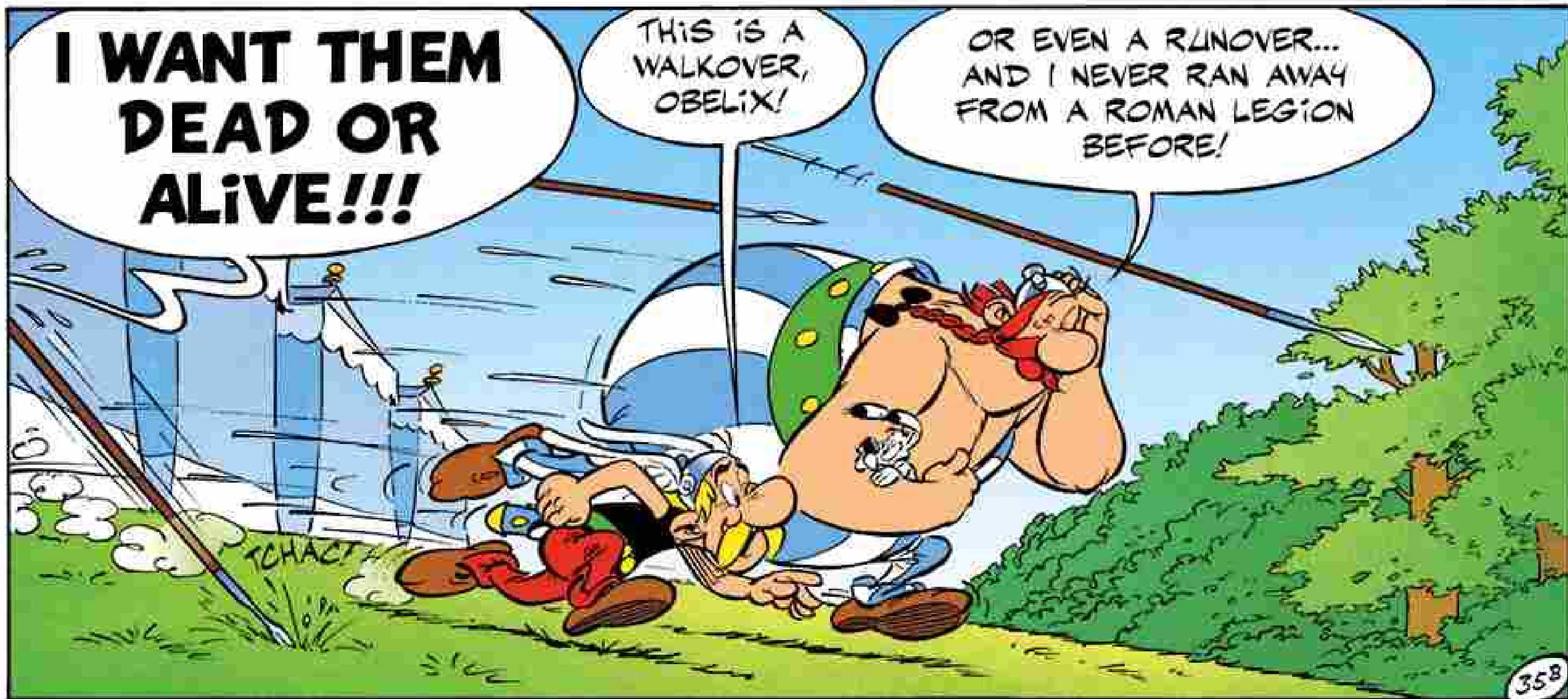
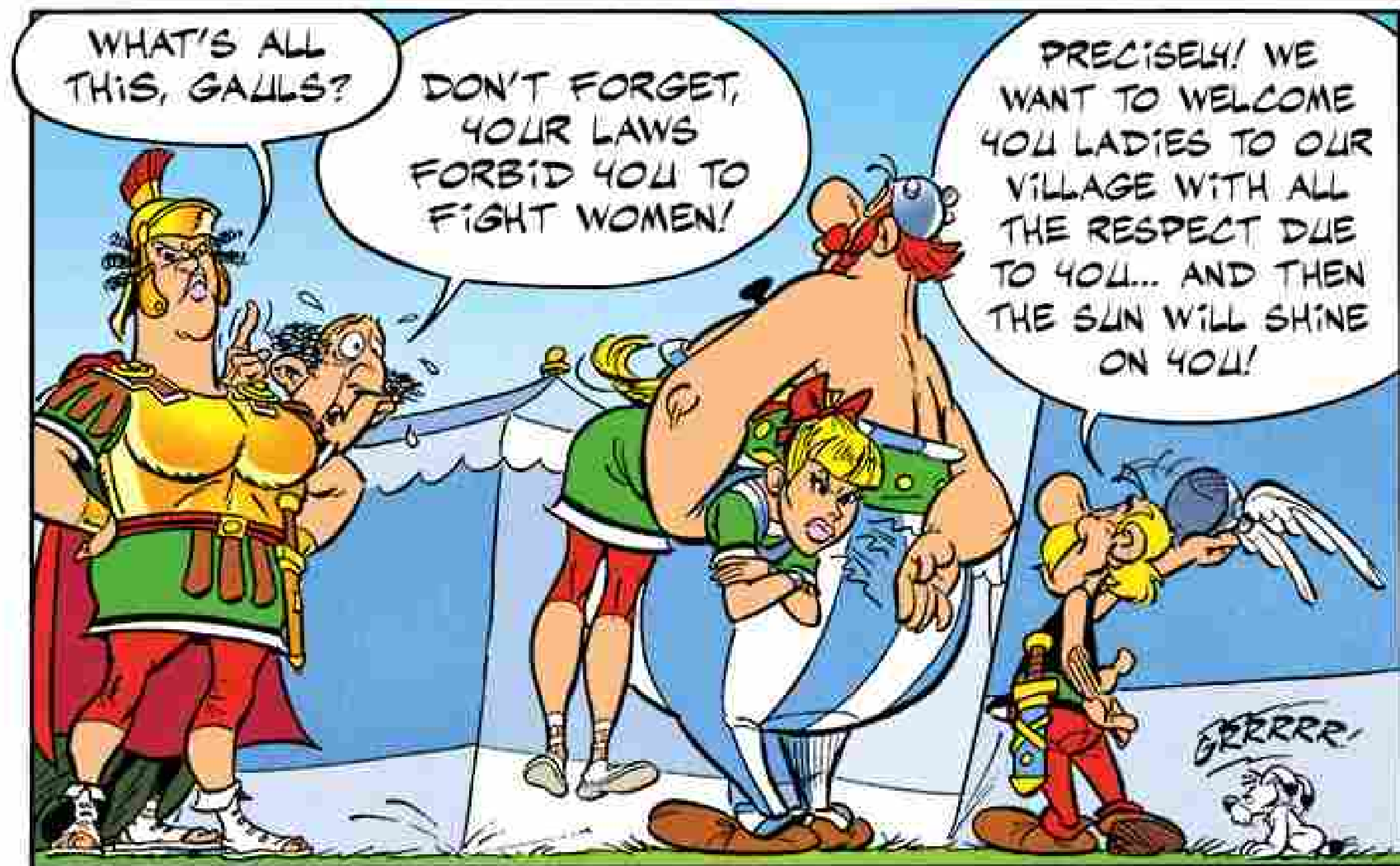
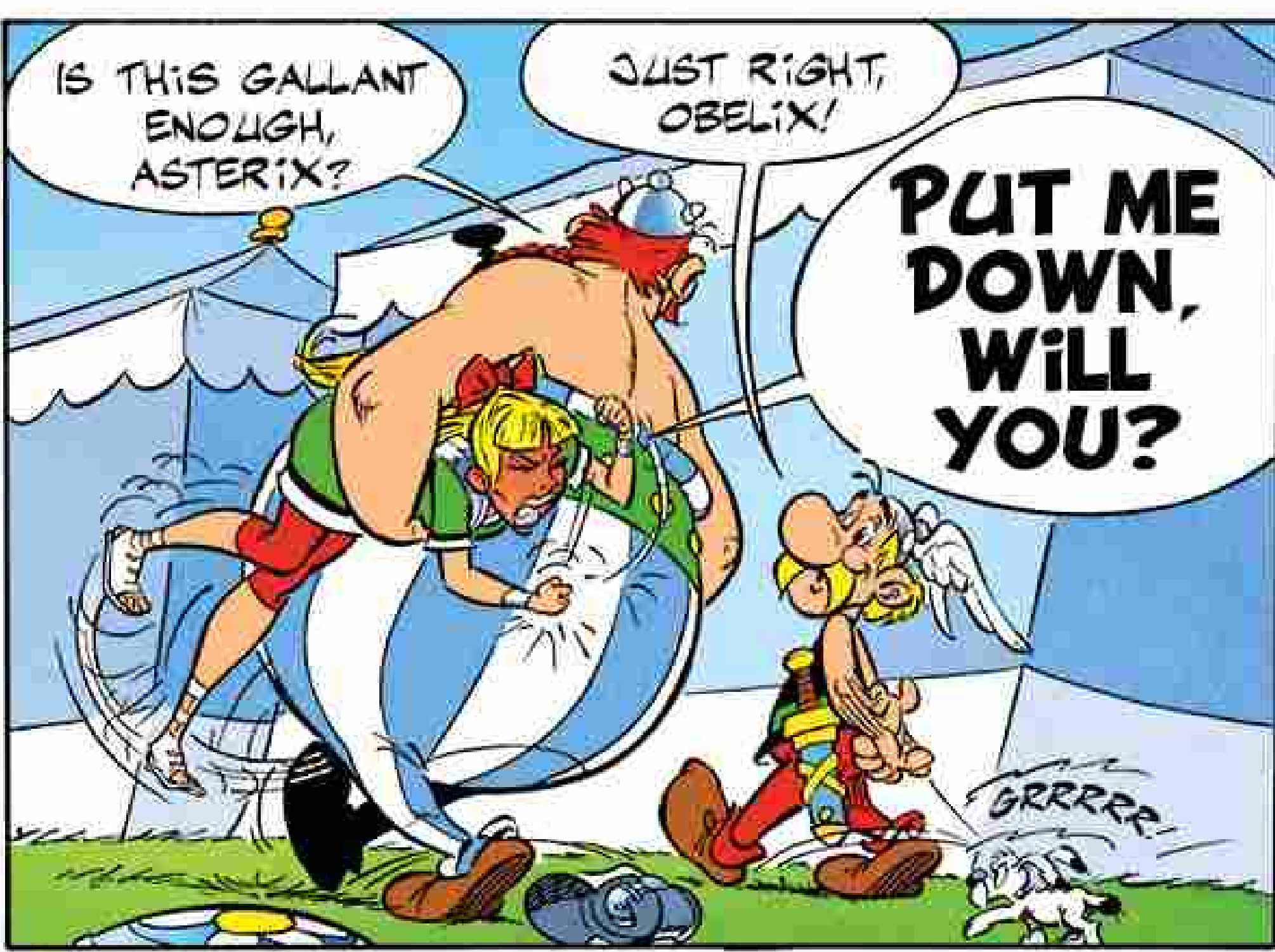
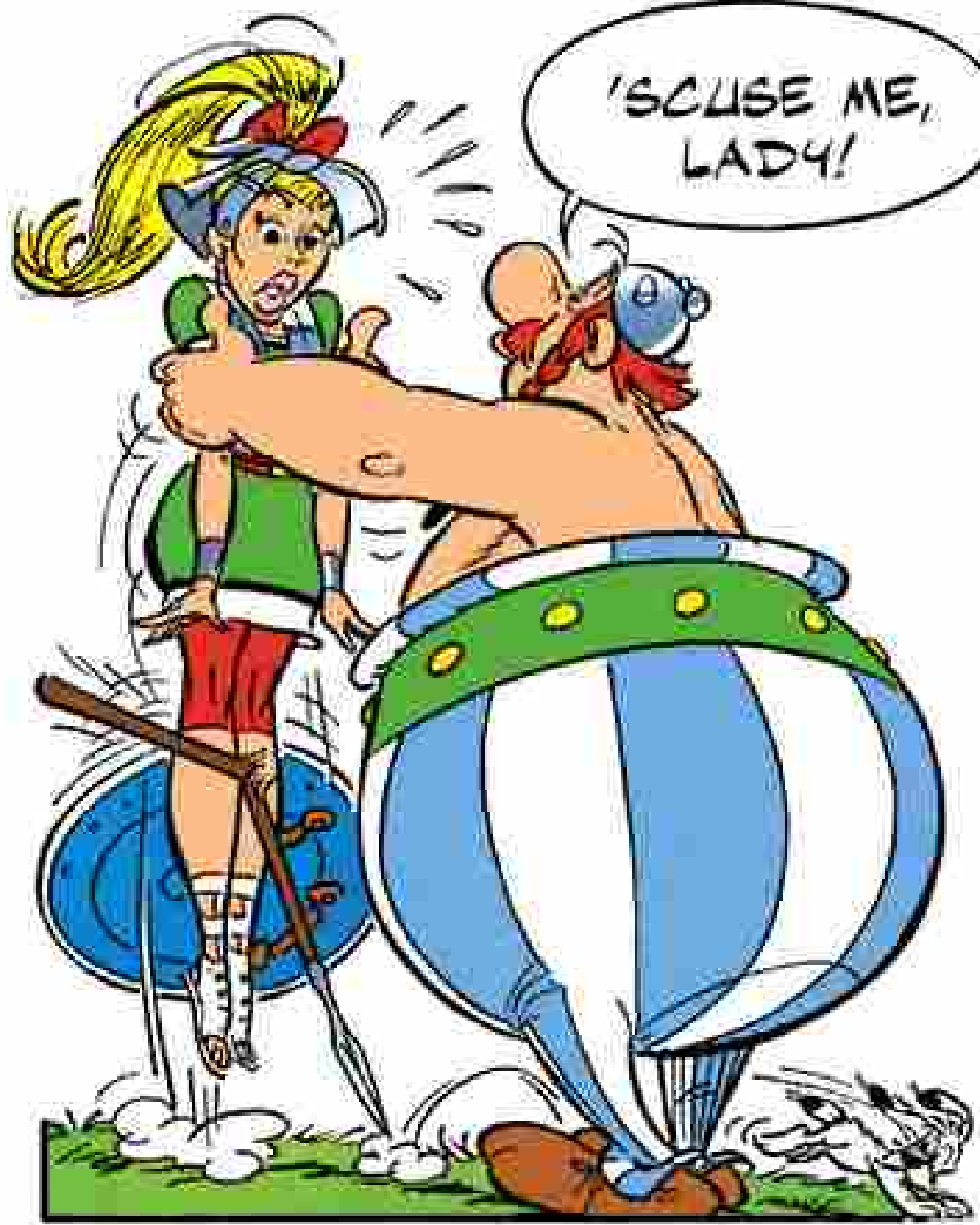


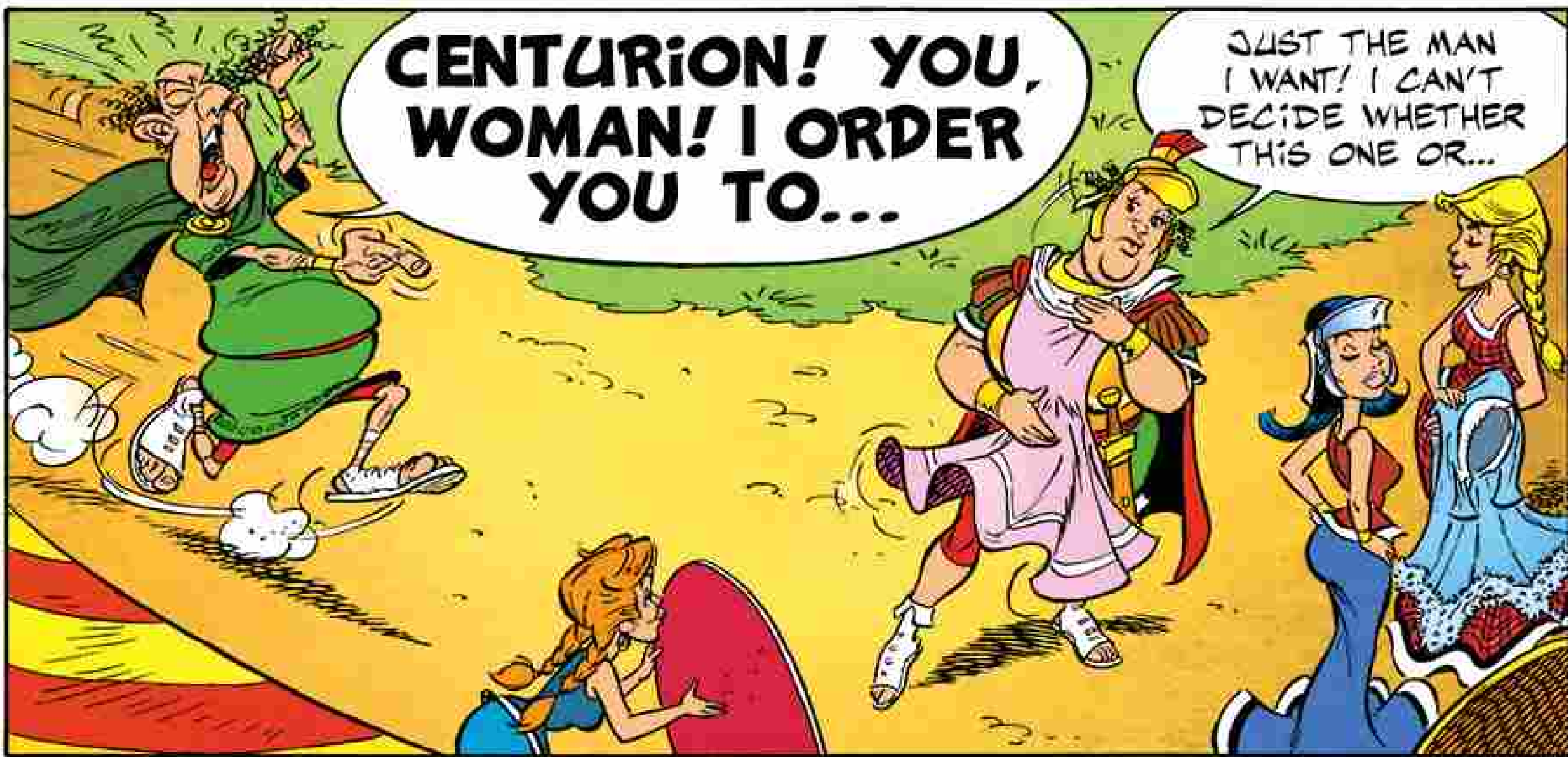


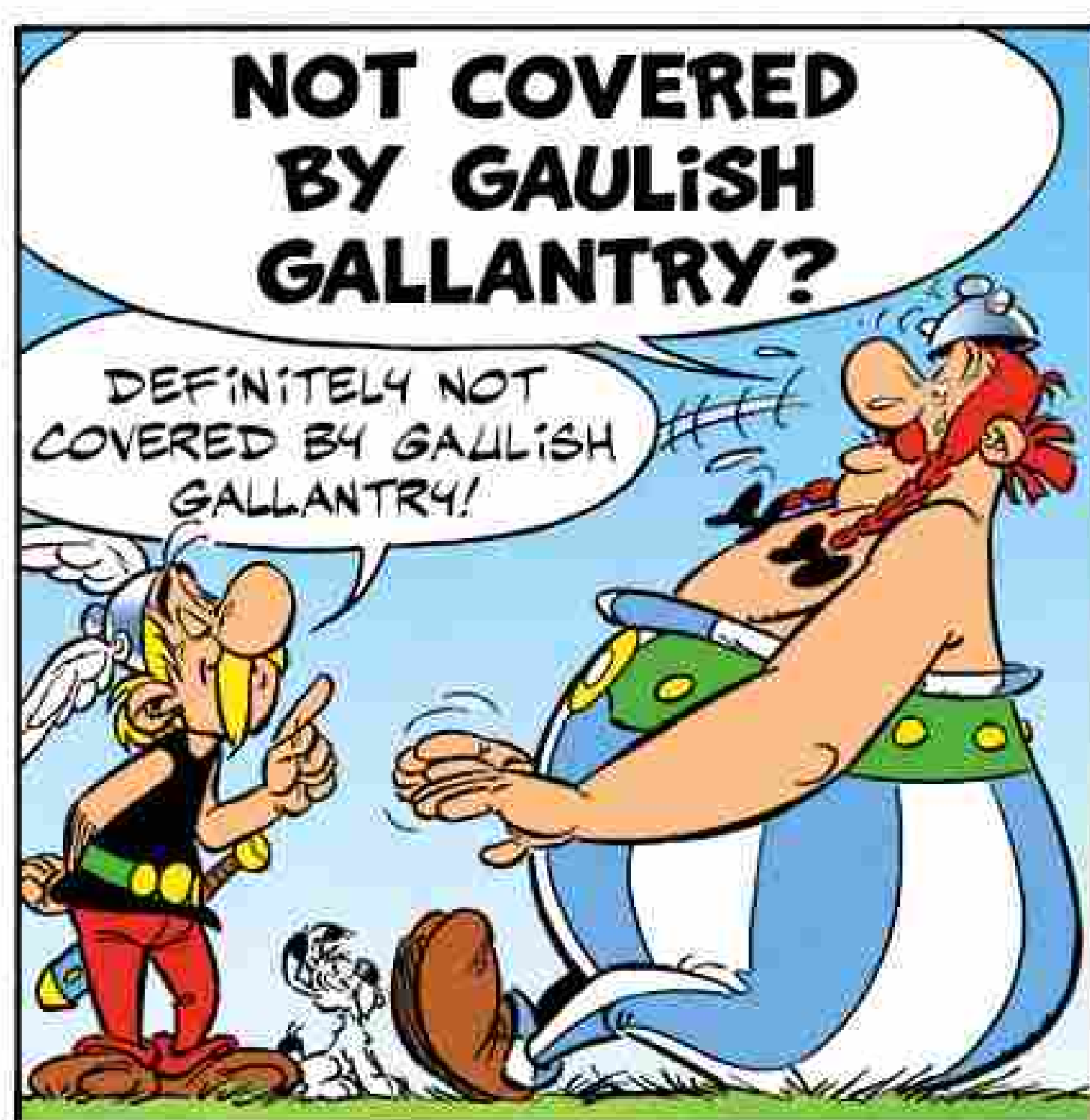
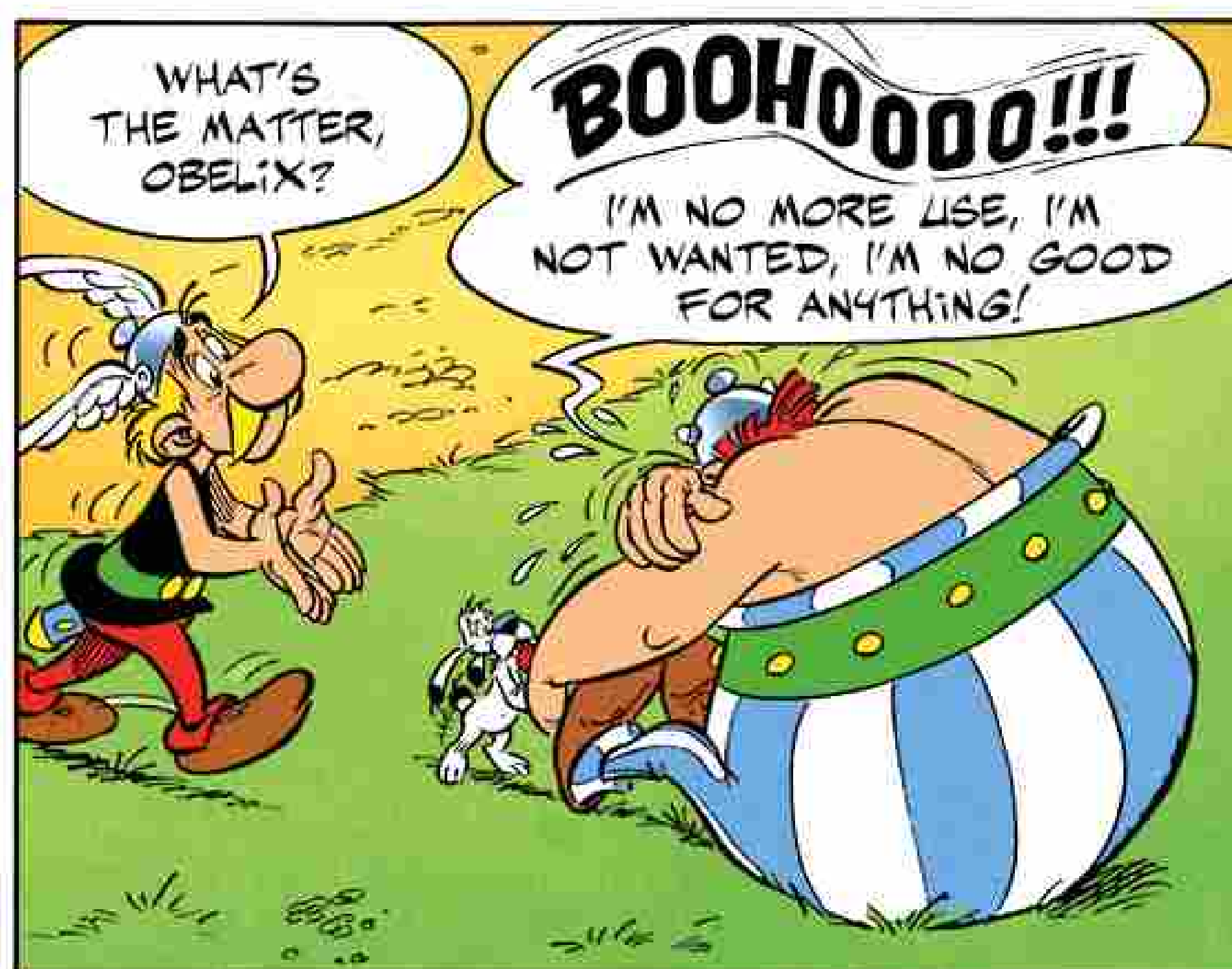
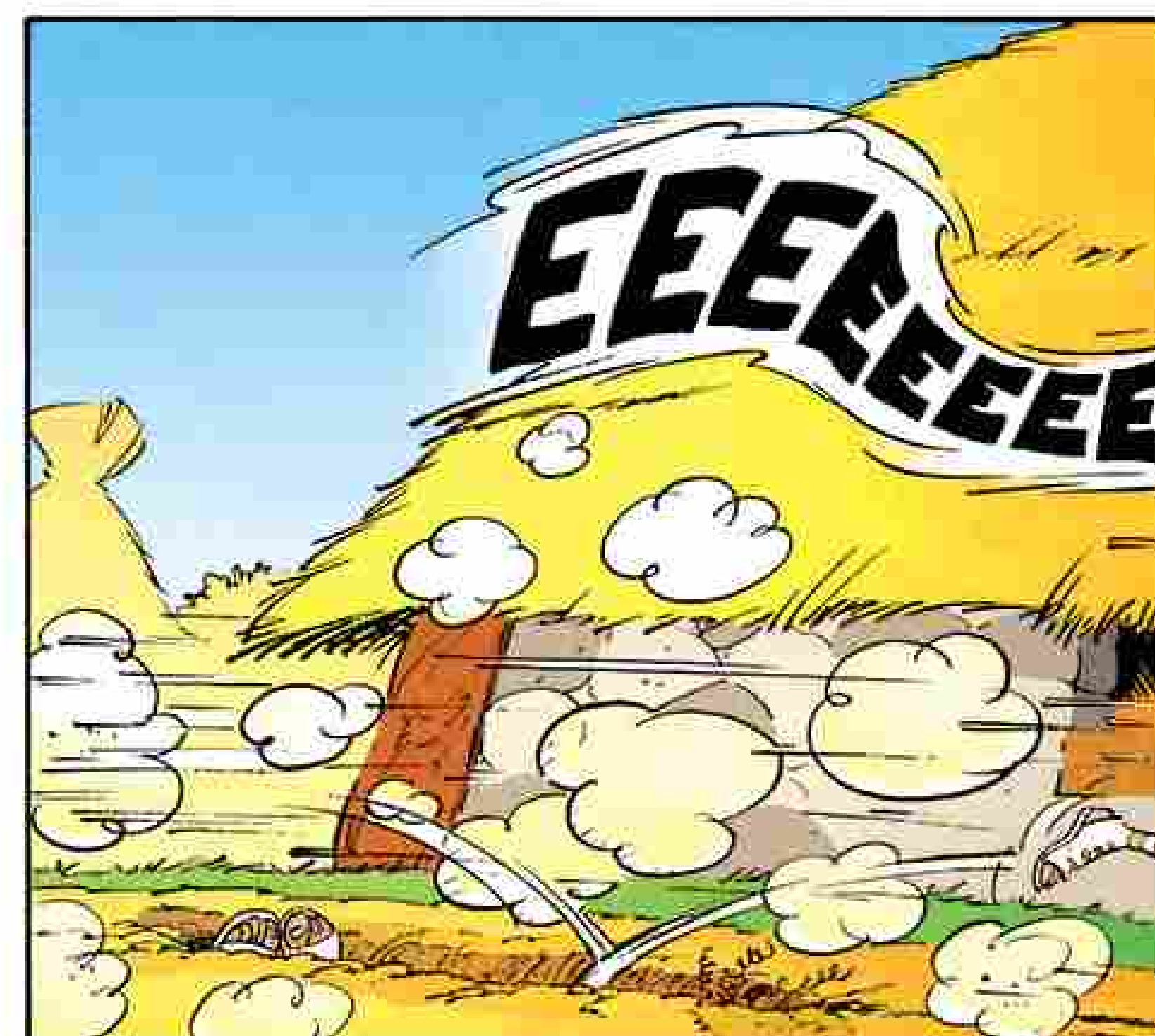


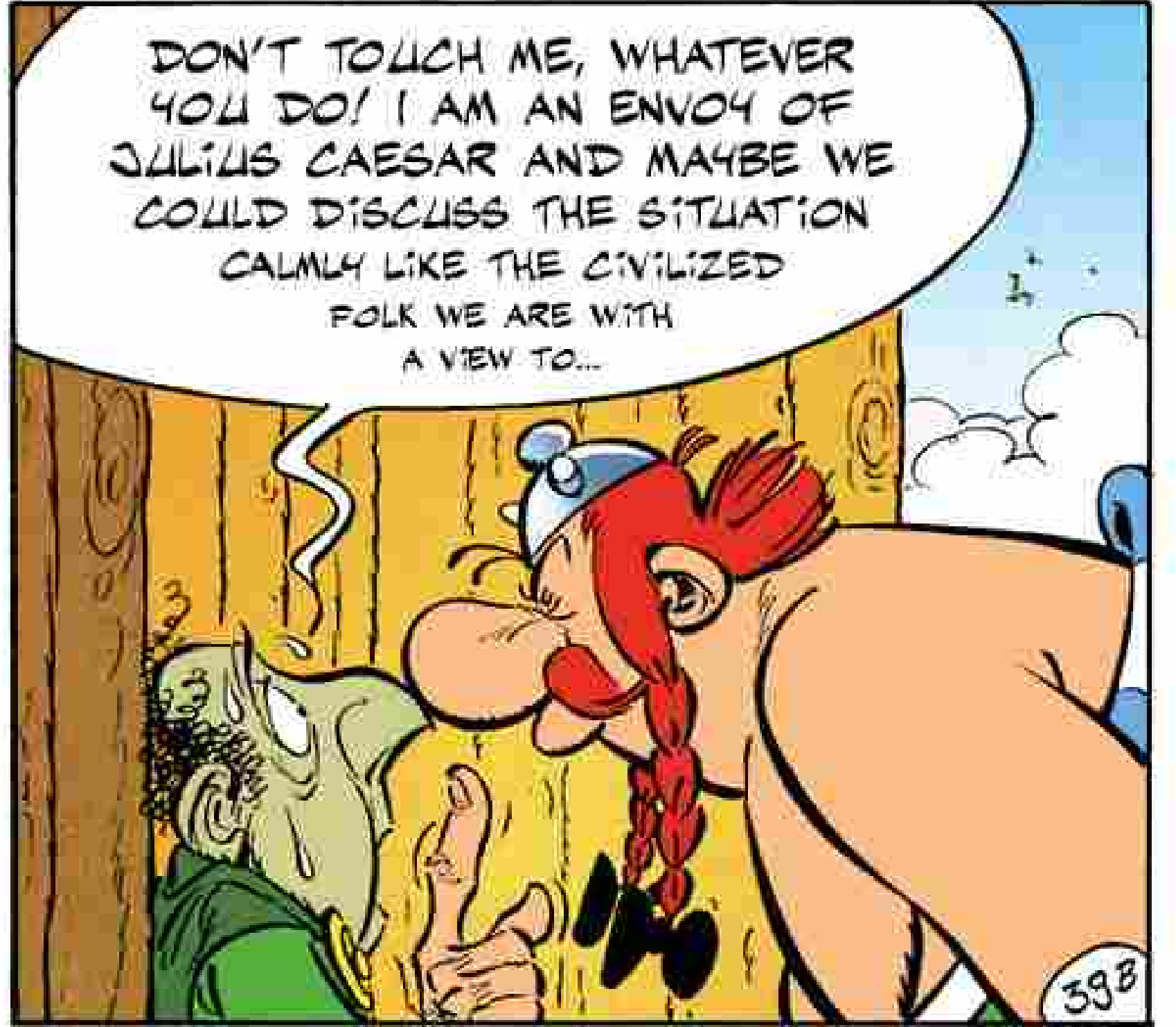
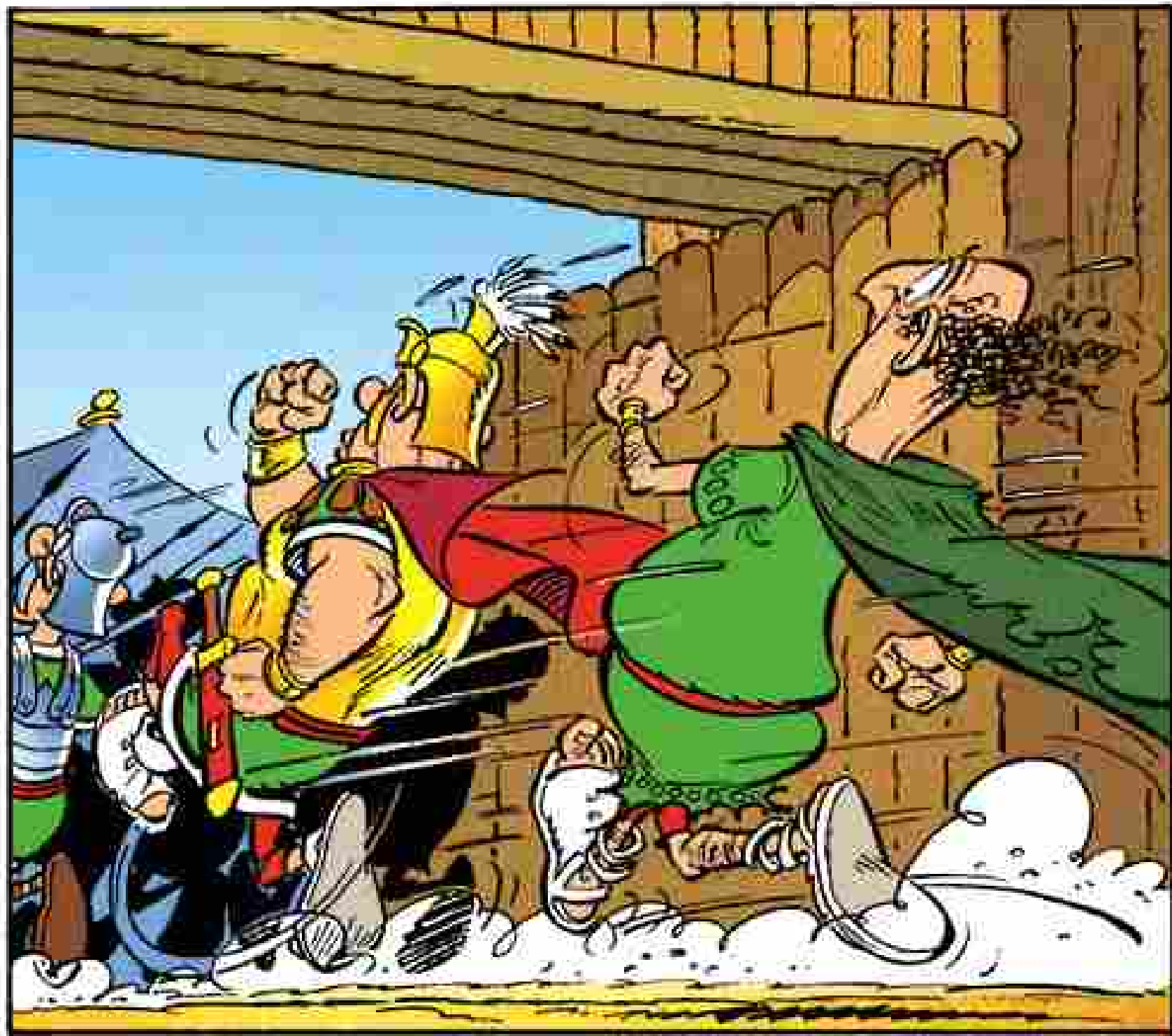
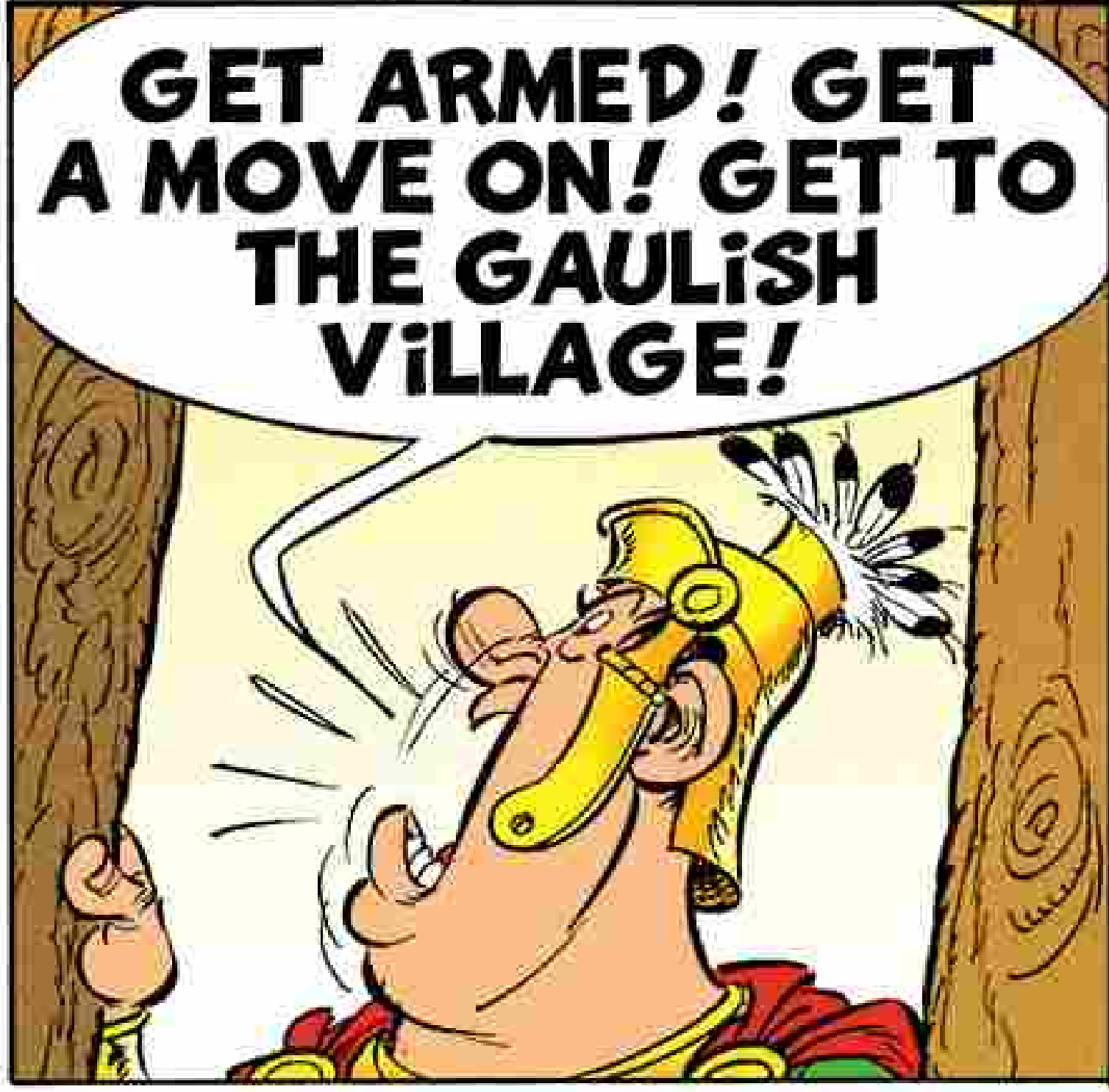
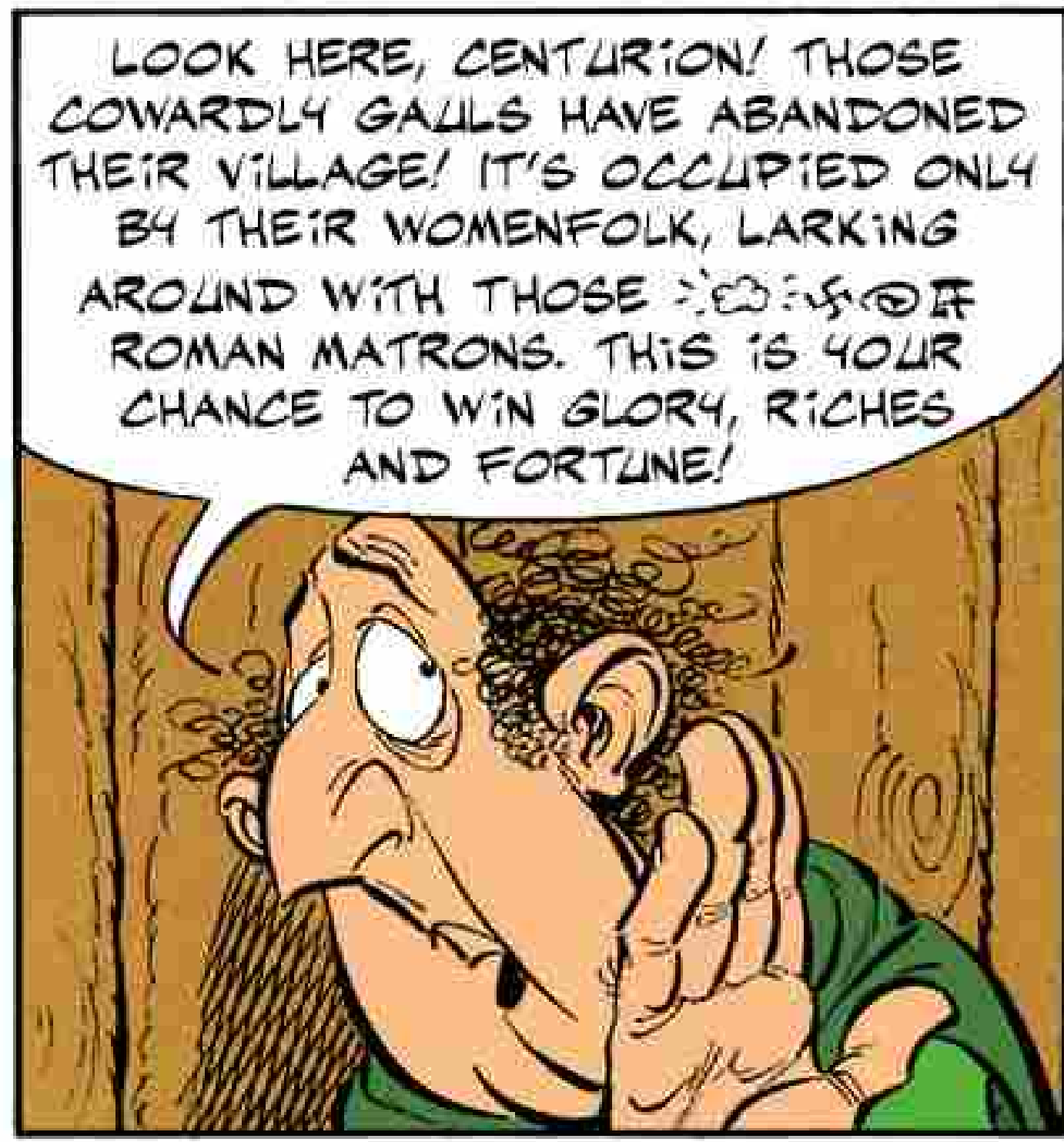
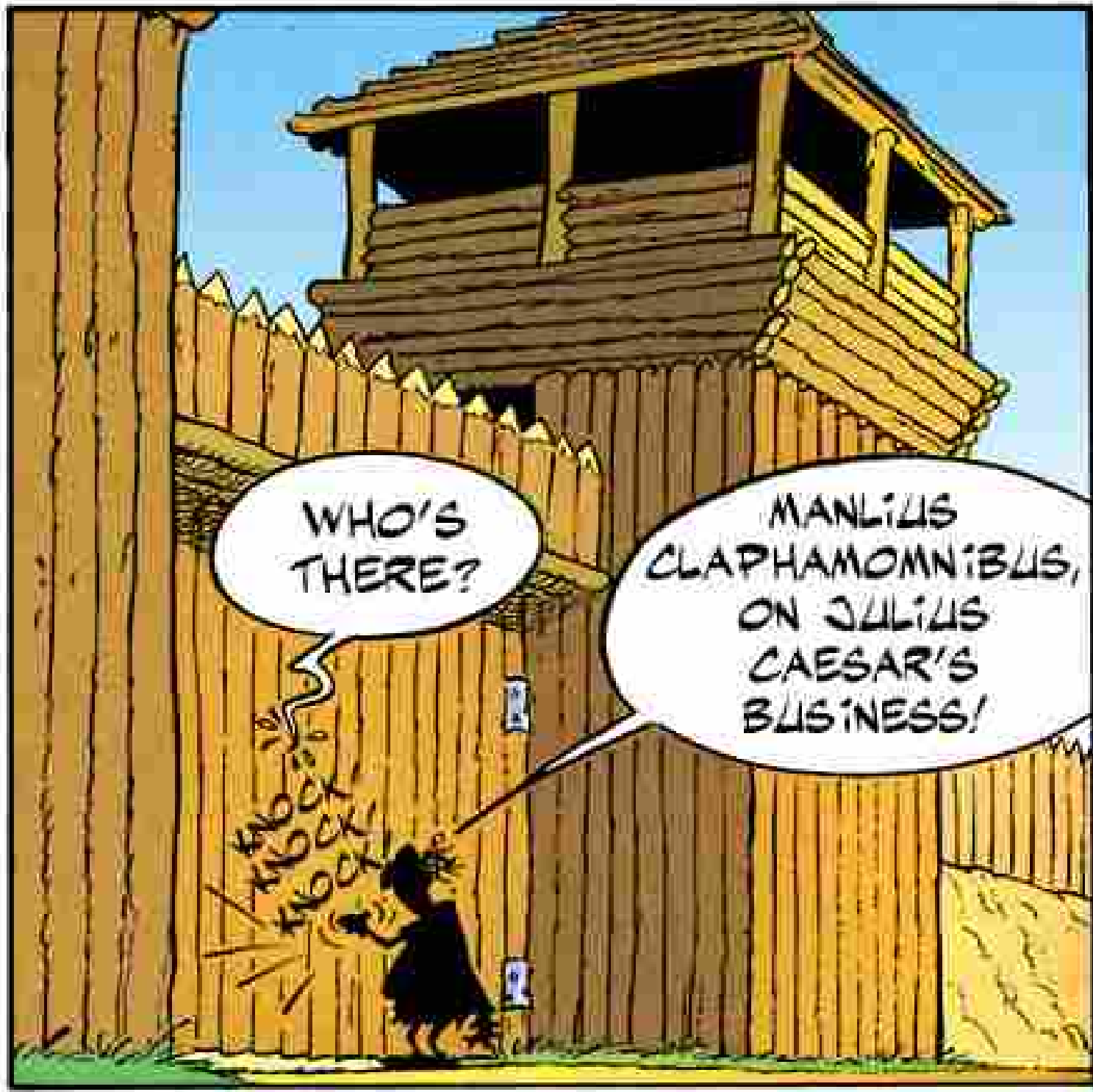
(1) OWL SWEAR-WORDS

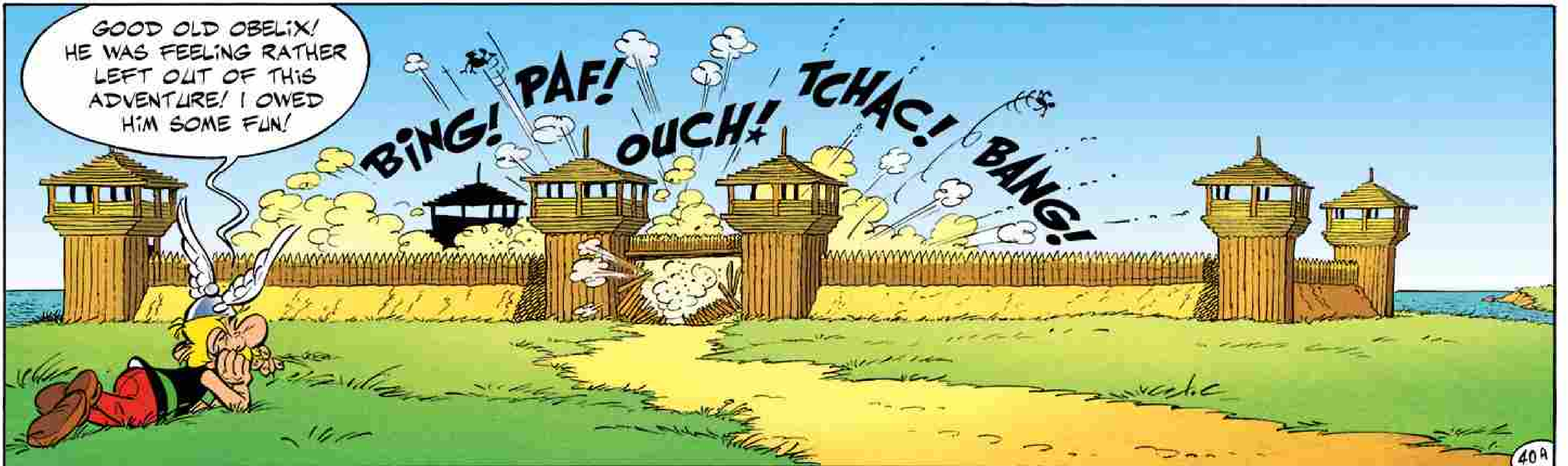


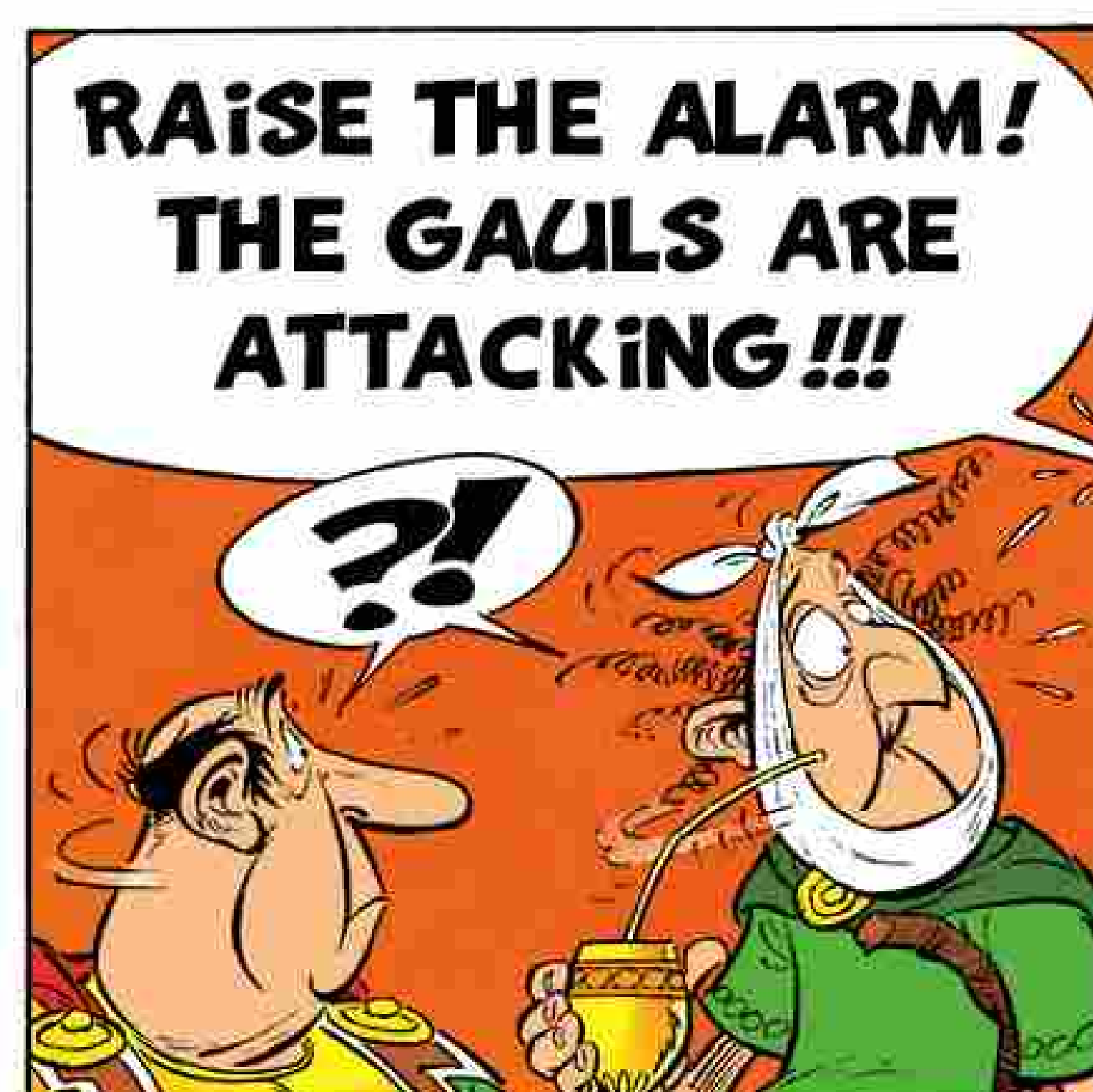
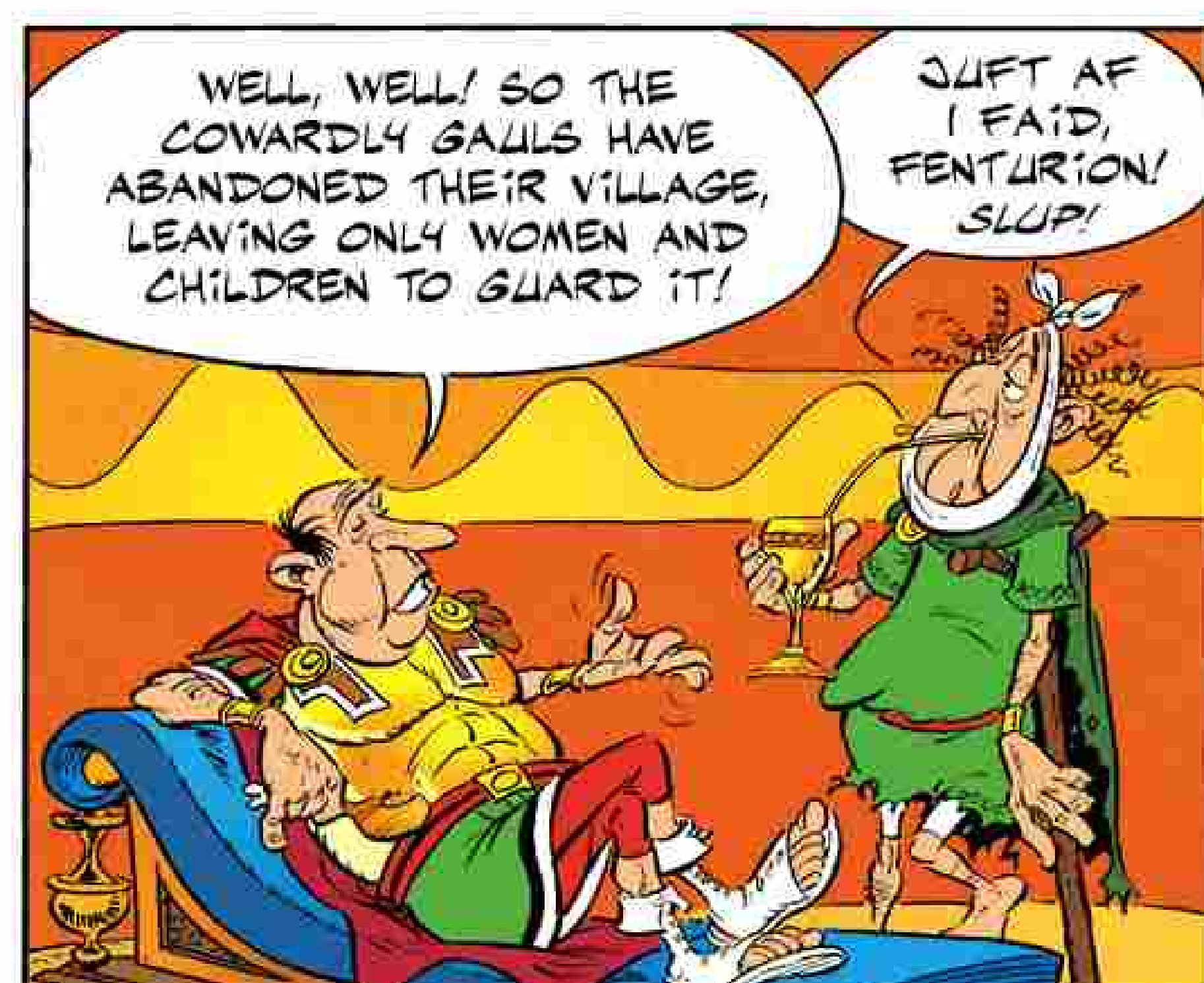
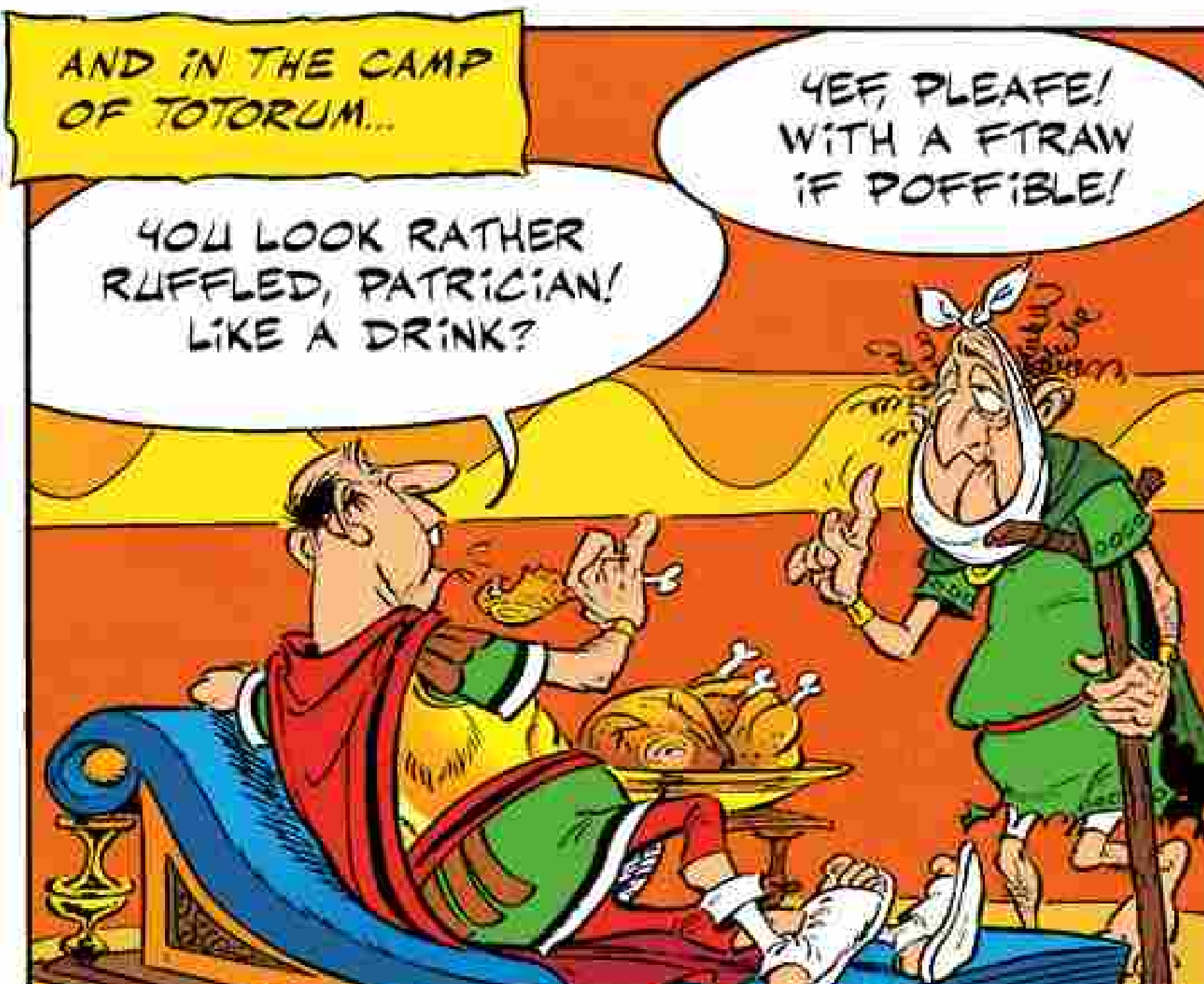
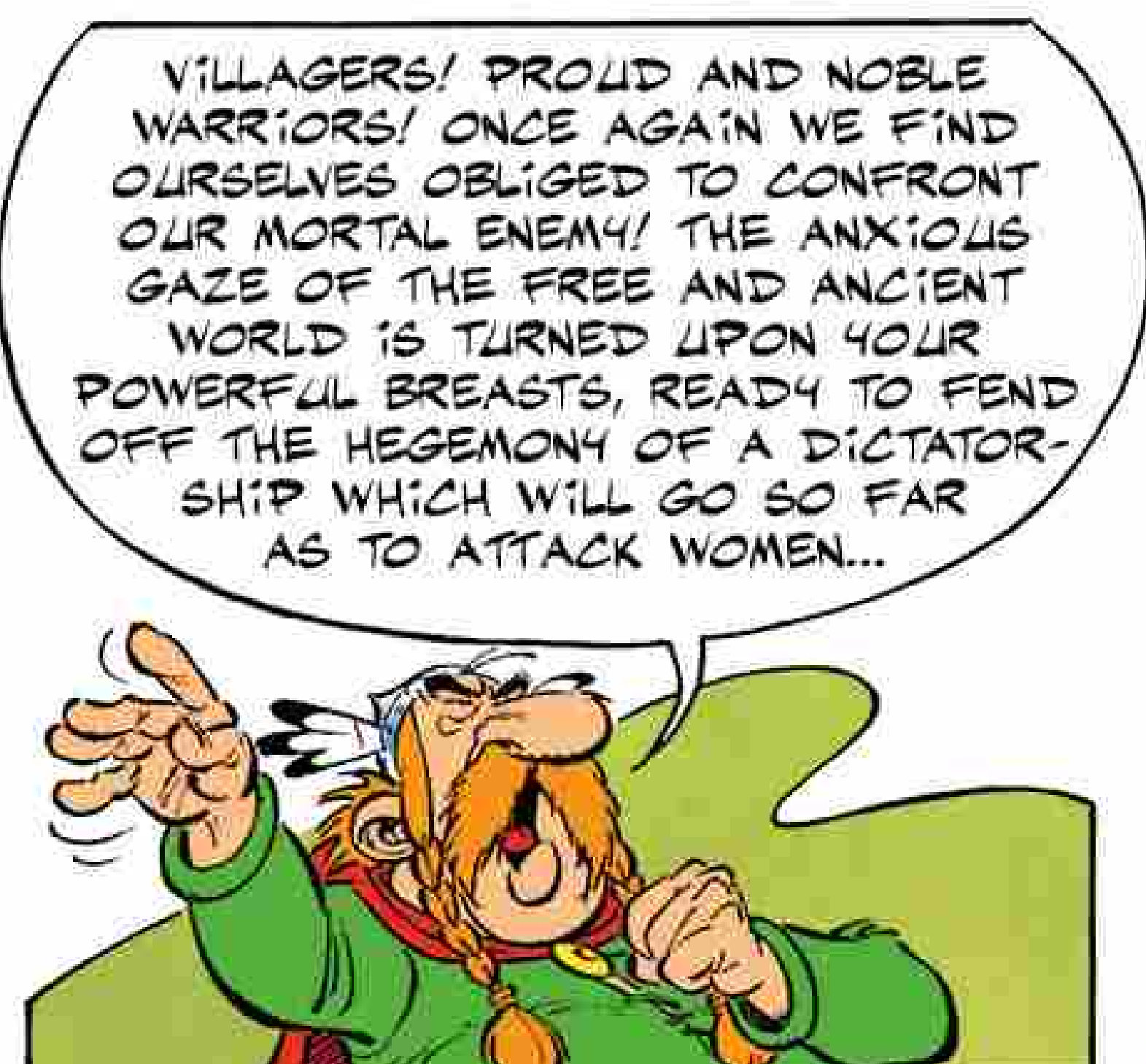


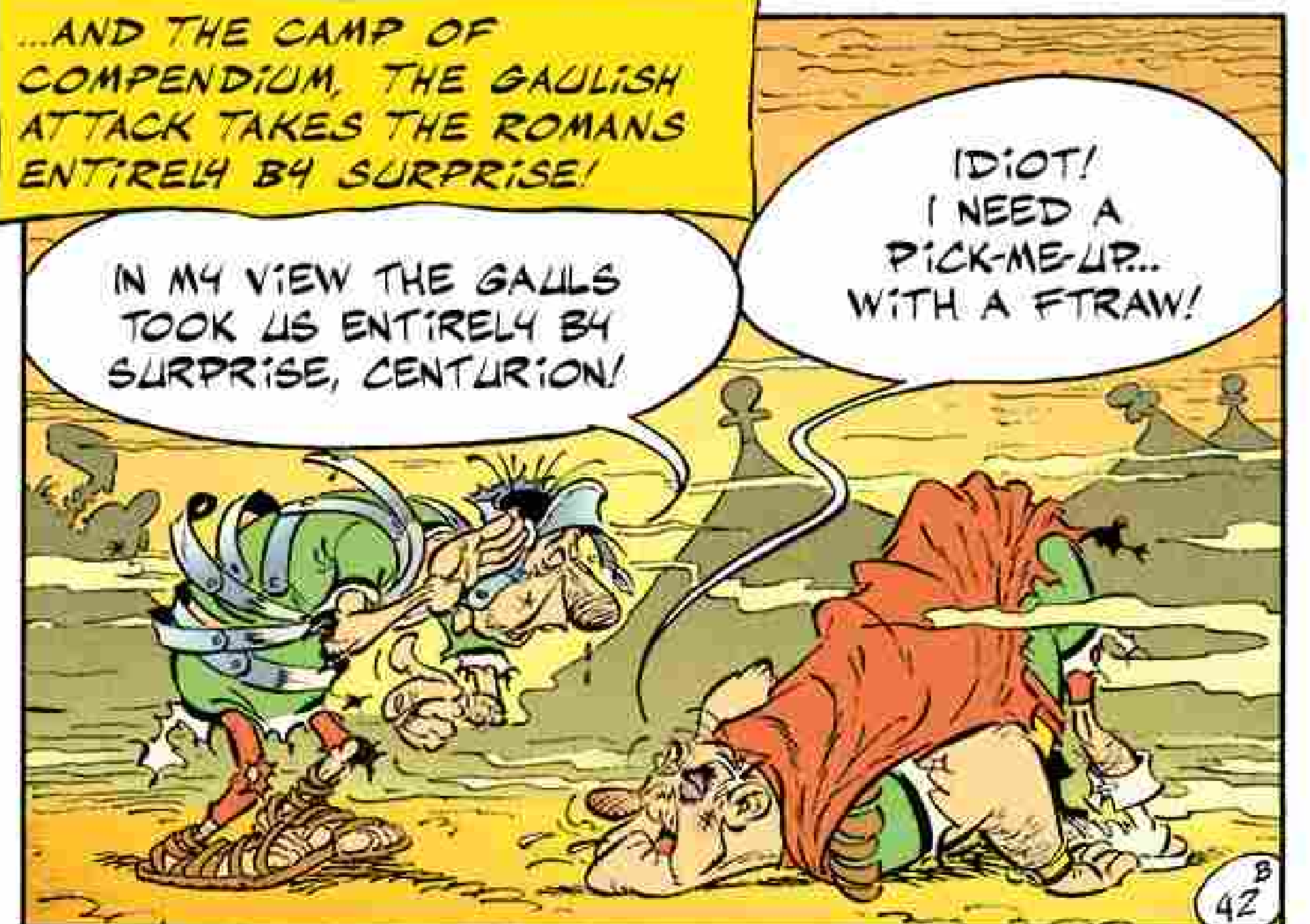
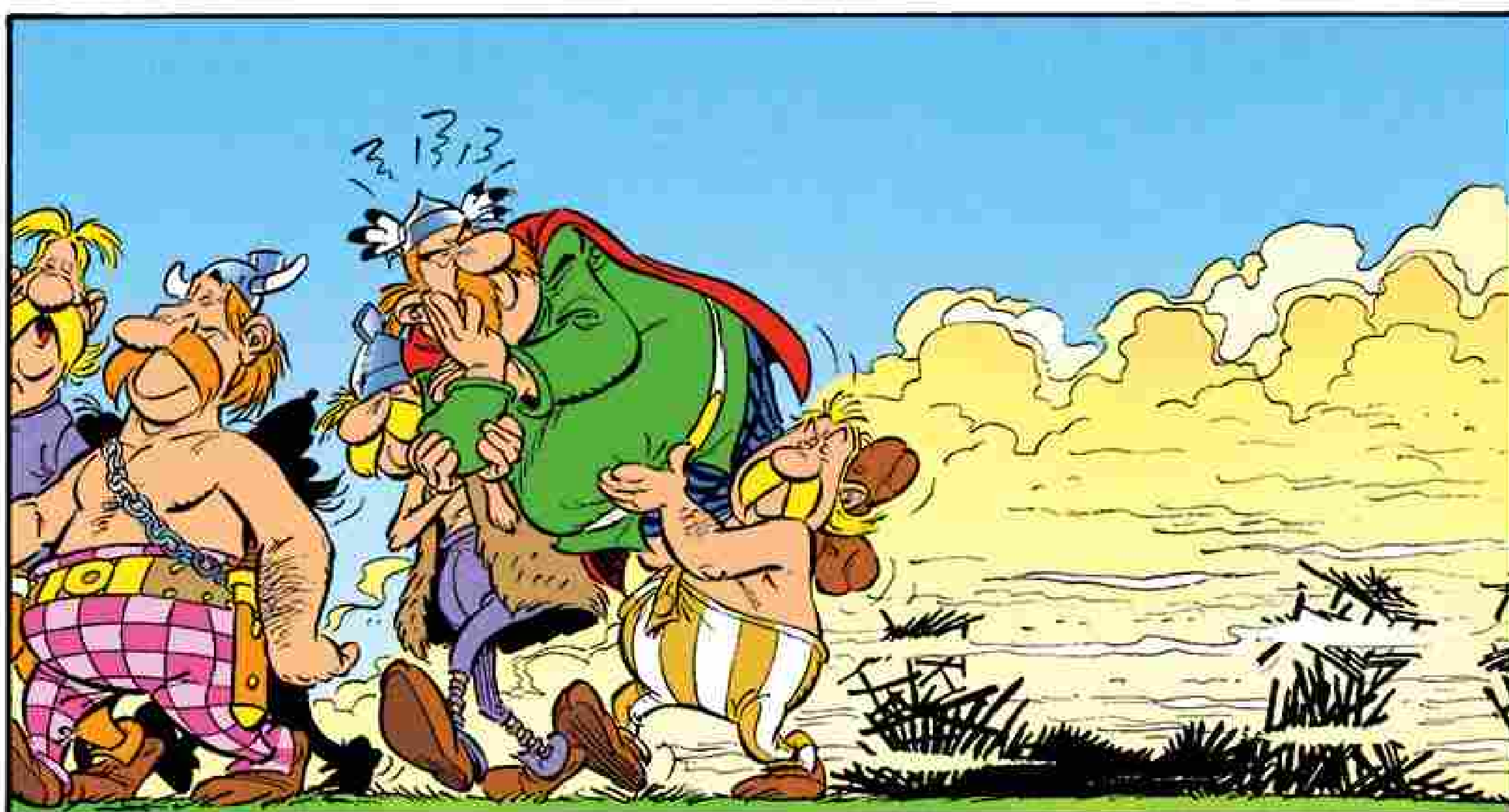
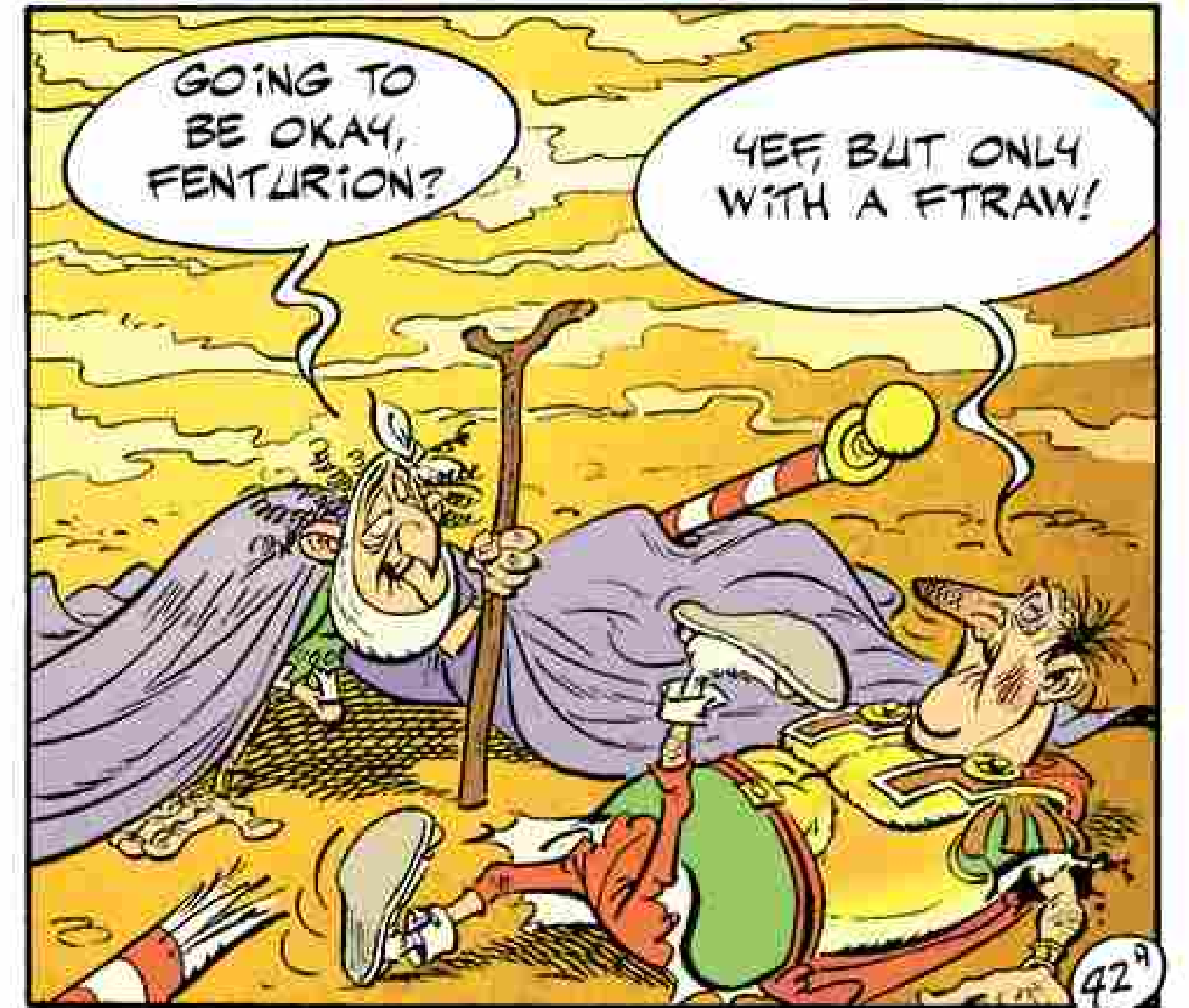
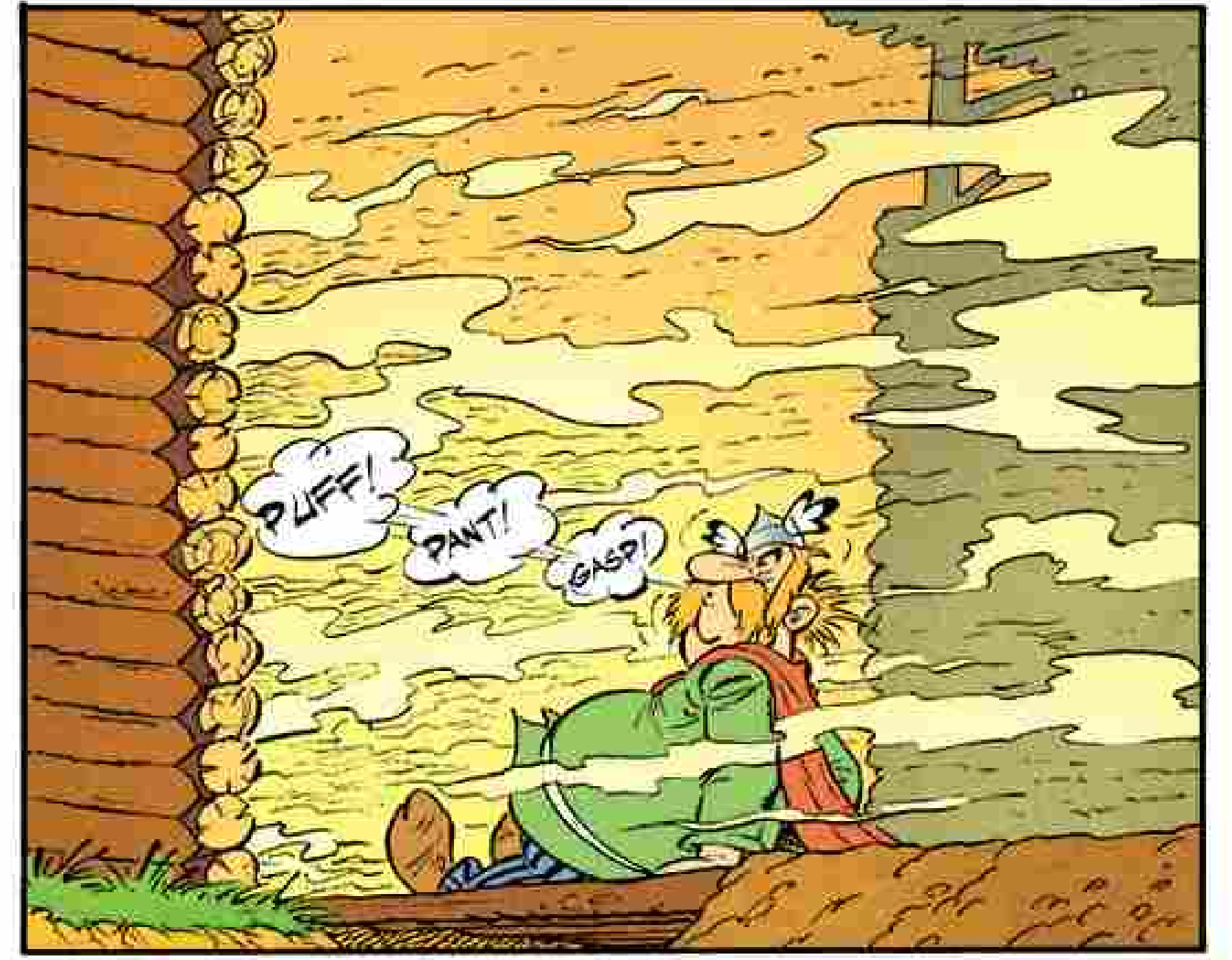


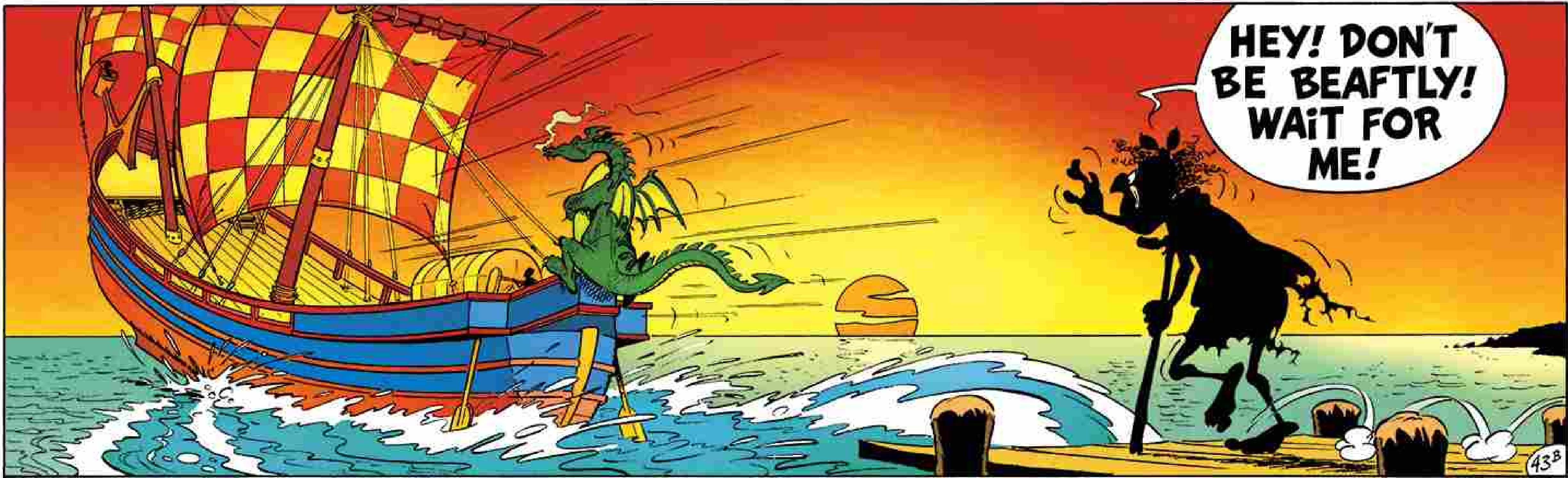
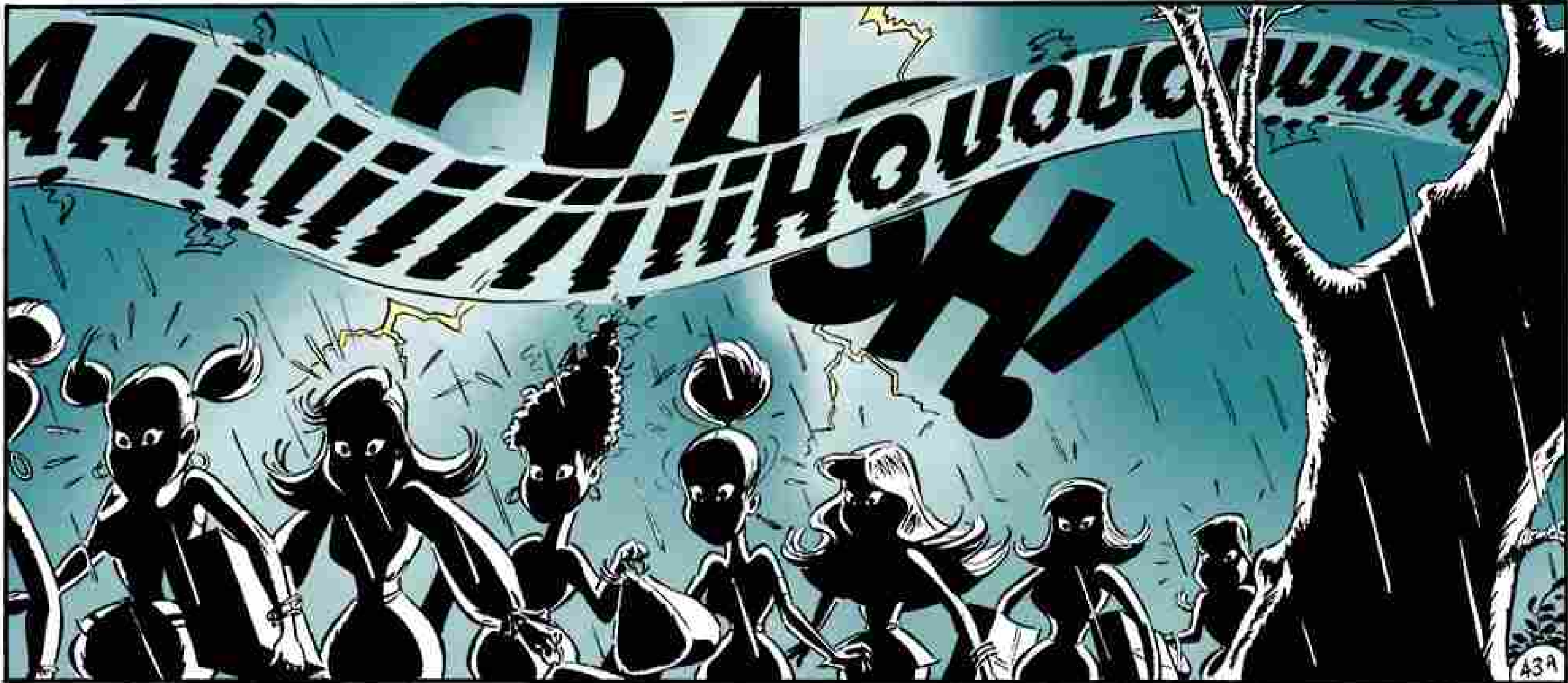
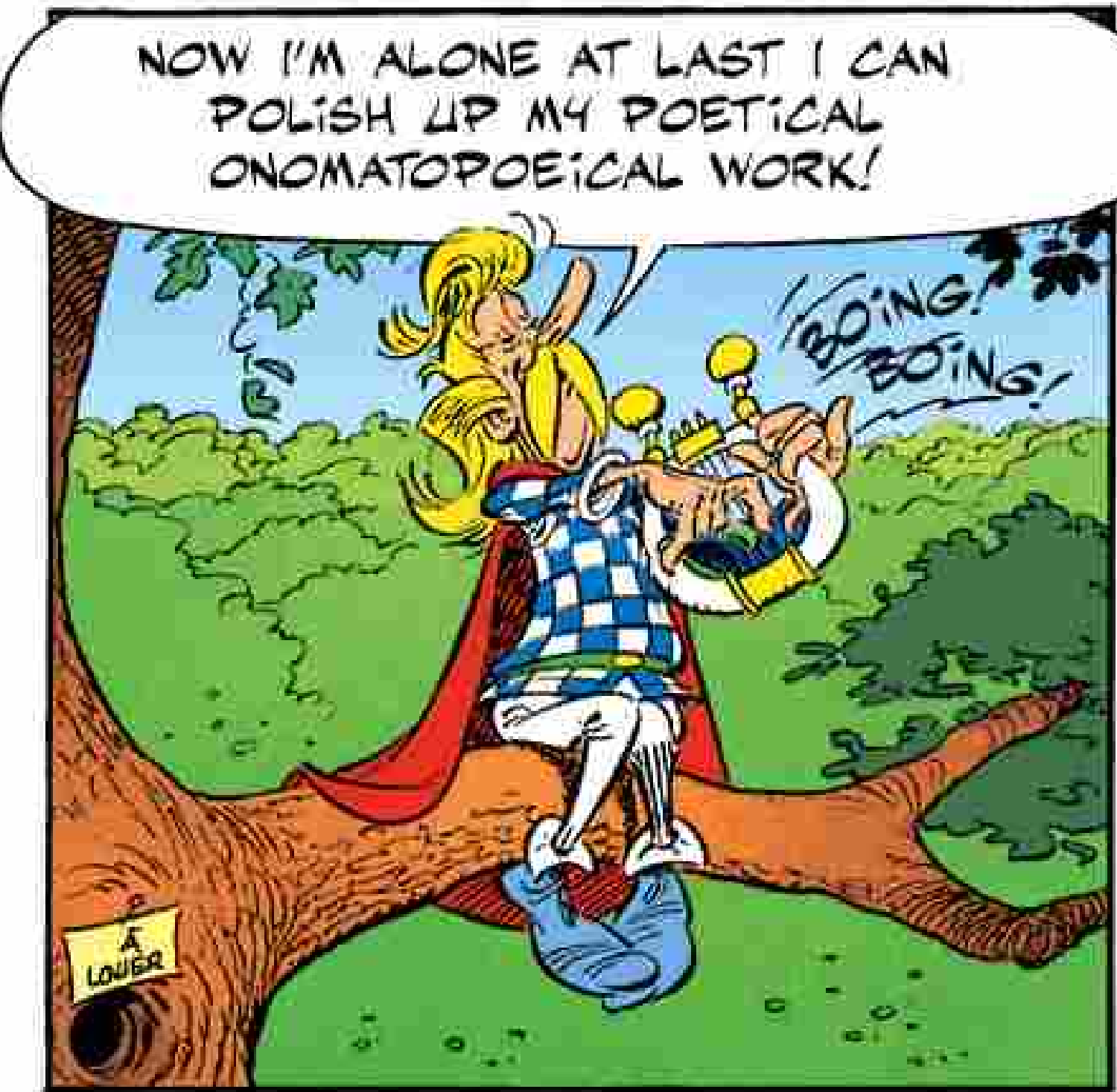


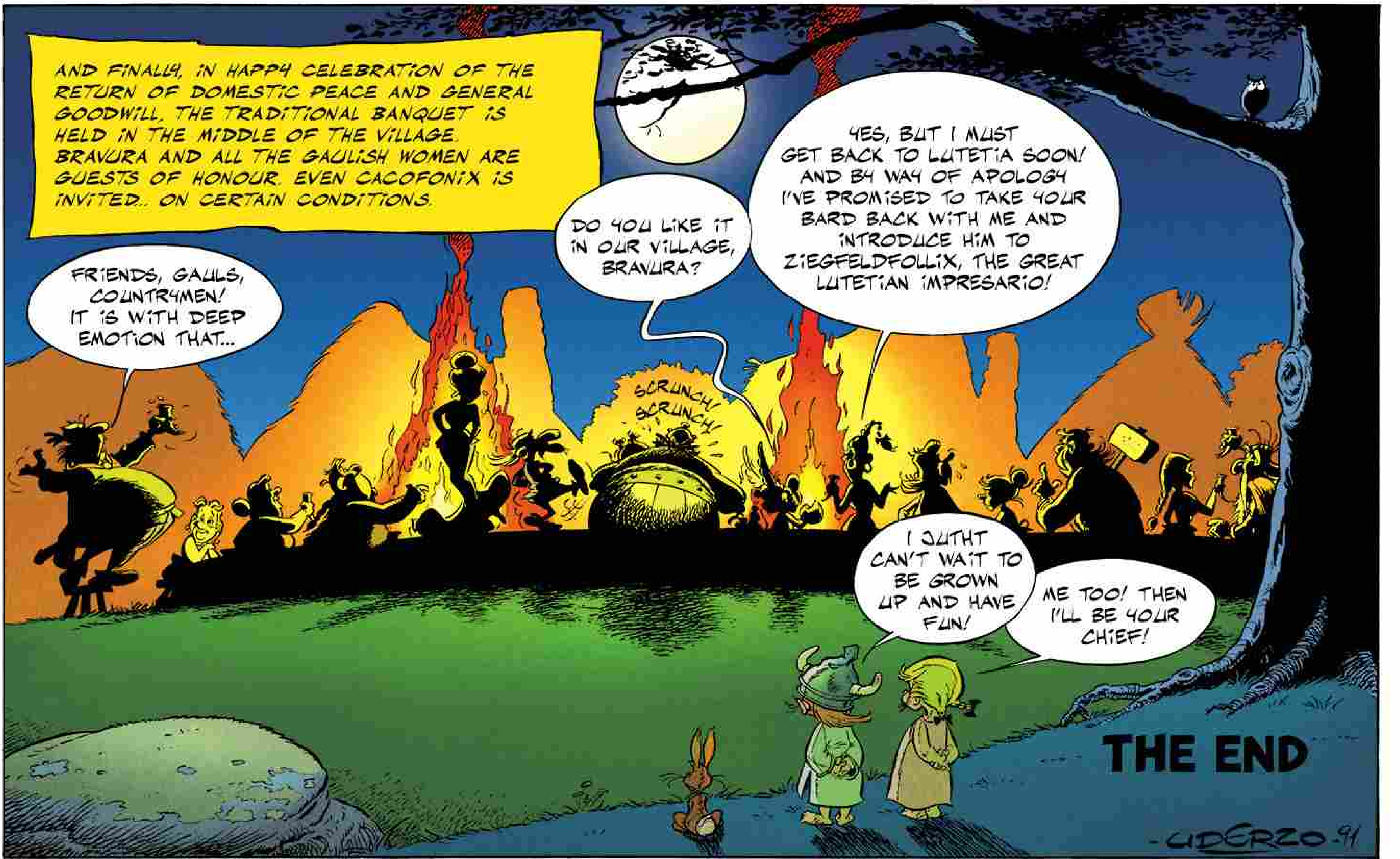
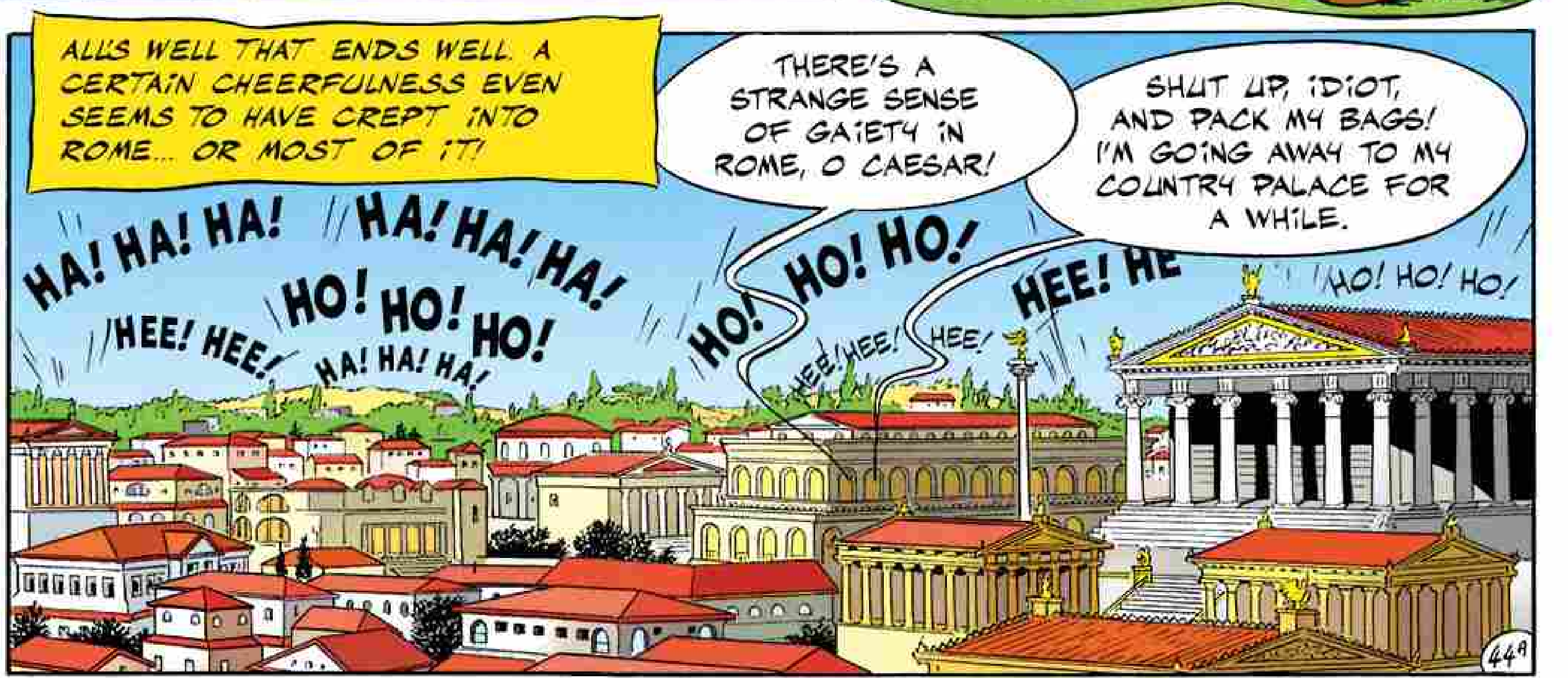
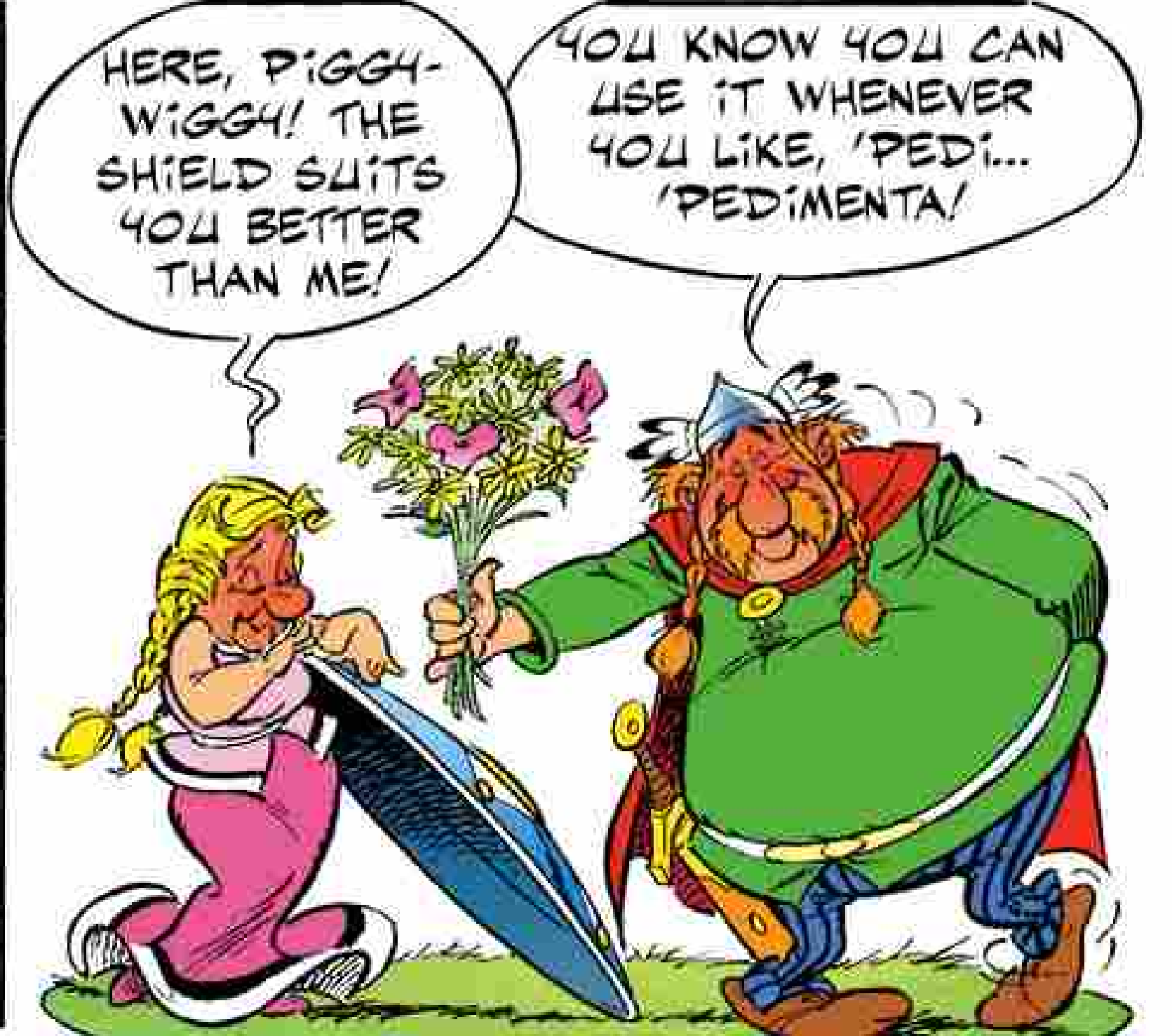
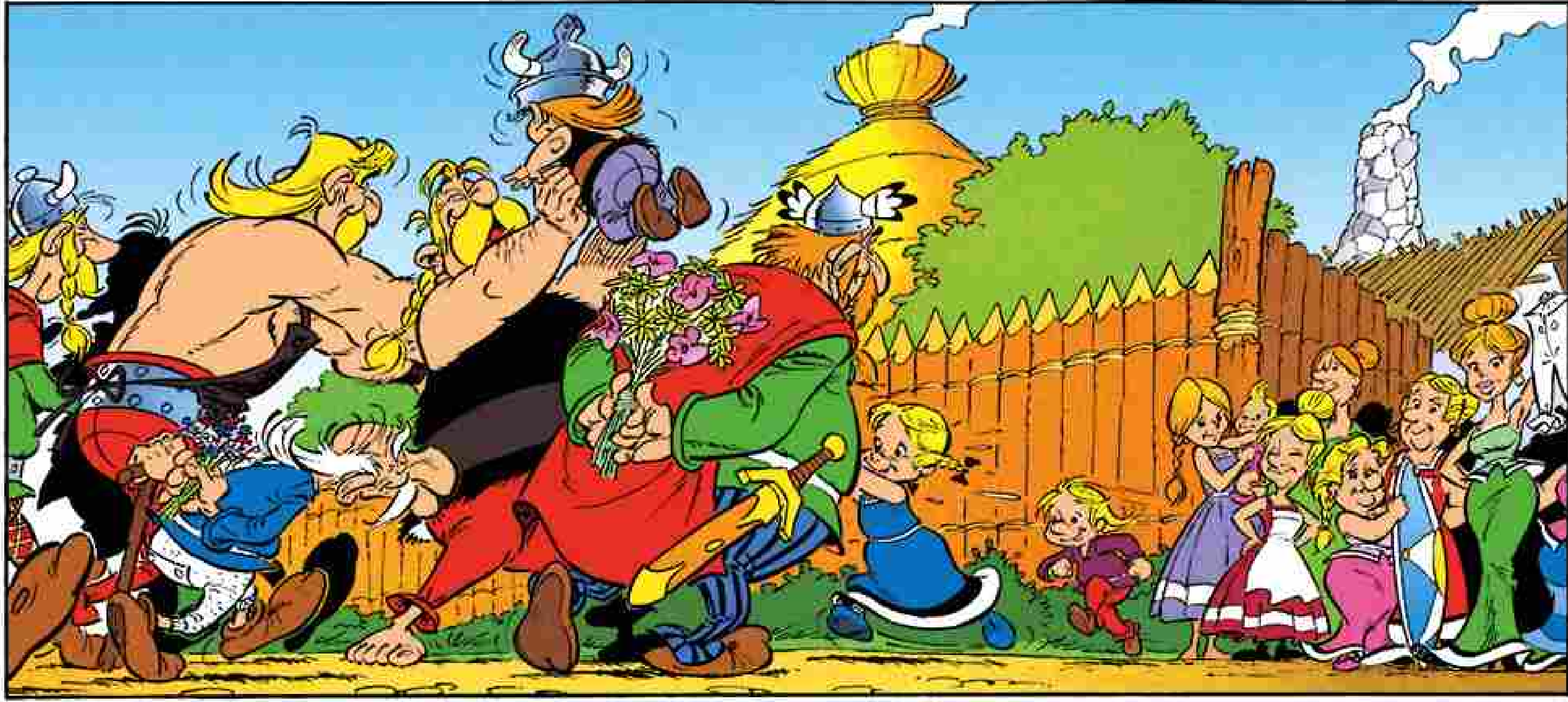








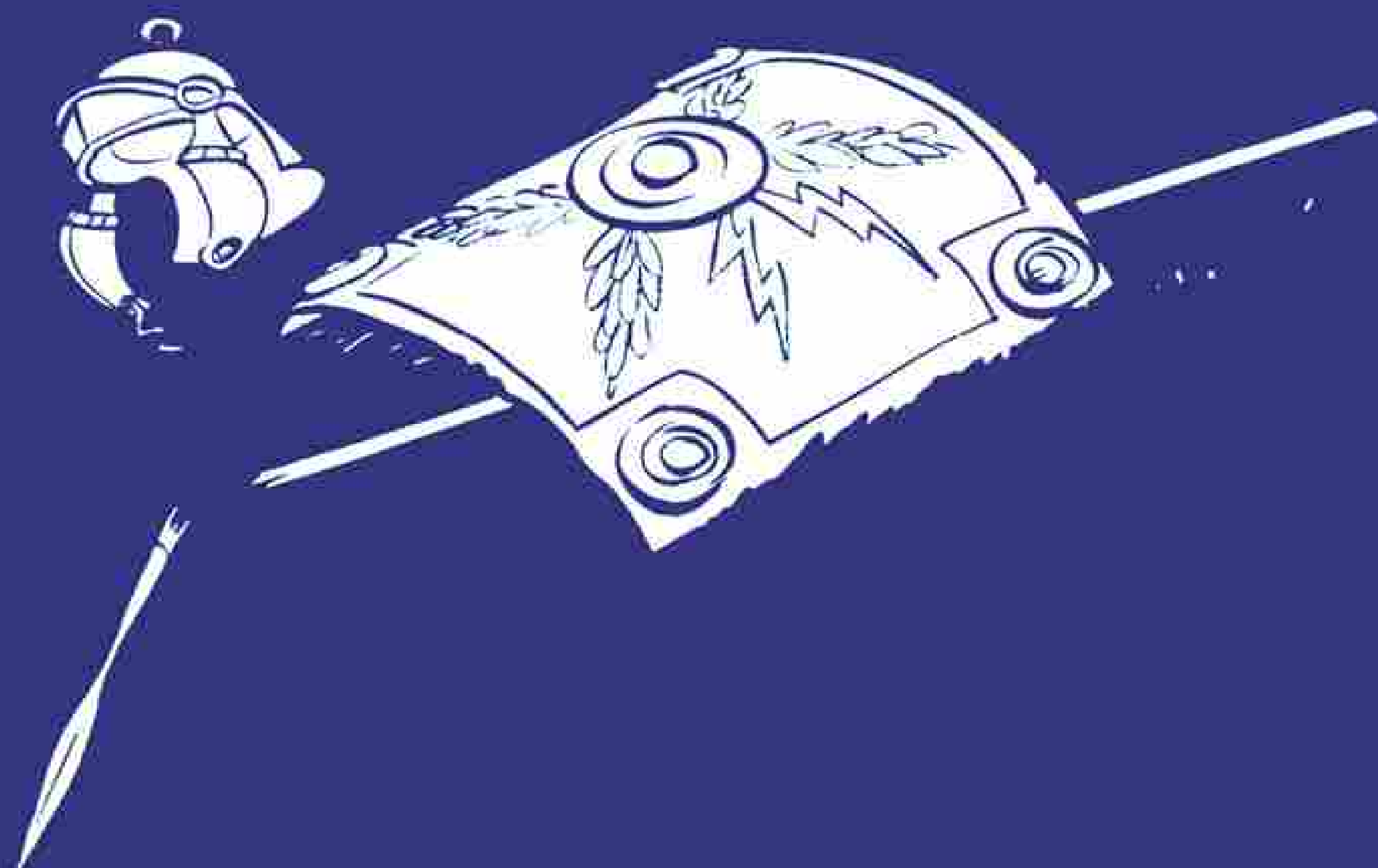






I FEEL
A BIT WEAK,
GETAFIX ...

NO, OBELIX! YOU
ARE NOT HAVING ANY MAGIC
POTION! YOU KNOW VERY WELL
YOU FELL INTO THE CAULDRON
WHEN YOU WERE A BABY, AND
IT HAD A PERMANENT
EFFECT ON YOU!



A
woman bard in
Ancient Gaul?
A shocking idea,
but that's what the
Gauls get when the
mothers in Asterix's
village hire Bravura
to teach their children.
Although she, Asterix
and Obelix are unlikely
allies, between them they
fight back against Julius
Caesar's secret weapon.
What can that weapon be?
And how can even
Cacofonix help?

